# VALACICLOVIR

*val-ay-sye-kloe-veer*

## What does it do?

*Valaciclovir* is used to treat and prevent viral infections such as herpes and shingles.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems, or have ever had a seizure.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *valaciclovir* regularly as directed with a glass of water. Keep taking it until the course is finished, even if you start to feel better.

## What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

## Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

## What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Seizures<br>Reduced number of blood cells that help your blood to clot - symptoms include: easy or unusual bruising or bleeding | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Confusion | Tell your doctor |
| Headache, tiredness or weakness<br>More sensitive to sunlight (sunburn or rash)<br>Abdominal pain<br>Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Other information:

- Drink plenty of fluids while taking *valaciclovir*.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *valaciclovir*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.