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### HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use VALACYCLOVIR TABLETS safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for VALACYCLOVIR TABLETS.

#### VALACYCLOVIR tablets, for oral use

Initial U.S. Approval: 1995

#### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Valacyclovir tablet is a deoxynucleoside analogue DNA polymerase inhibitor indicated for:

##### Adult Patients (1.1)

- Cold Sores (Herpes Labialis)
- Genital Herpes
  - Treatment in immunocompetent patients (initial or recurrent episode)
  - Suppression in immunocompetent or HIV-1-infected patients
- Reduction of transmission
- Herpes Zoster

##### Pediatric Patients (1.2)

- Cold Sores (Herpes Labialis)
- Chickenpox

##### Limitations of Use (1.3)

The efficacy and safety of valacyclovir tablets have not been established in immunocompromised patients other than for the suppression of genital herpes in HIV-1-infected patients.

#### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

##### Adult Dosage (2.1)

Indication	Dosage
Cold Sores	2 grams every 12 hours for 1 day
Genital Herpes	
Initial episode	1 gram twice daily for 10 days
Recurrent episodes	500 mg twice daily for 3 days
Suppressive therapy	
Immunocompetent patients	1 gram once daily
Alternate dose in patients with less than or equal to 9 recurrences/year	500 mg once daily
HIV-1-infected patients	500 mg twice daily
Reduction of transmission	500 mg once daily

Herpes Zoster	1 gram 3 times daily for 7 days
<b>Pediatric Dosage (2.2)</b>	
Cold Sores (aged greater than or equal to 12 years)	2 grams every 12 hours for 1 day
Chickenpox (aged 2 to less than 18 years)	20 mg/kg 3 times daily for 5 days; not to exceed 1 gram 3 times daily

Valacyclovir oral suspension (25 mg/mL or 50 mg/mL) can be prepared from the 500 mg valacyclovir tablets. (2.3)

#### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Tablets: 500 mg (unscored), 1 gram (partially scored) (3)

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to valacyclovir (e.g., anaphylaxis), acyclovir, or any component of the formulation. (4)

#### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura/hemolytic uremic syndrome (TTP/HUS): Has occurred in patients with advanced HIV-1 disease and in allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients receiving 8 grams per day of valacyclovir in clinical trials. Discontinue treatment if clinical symptoms and laboratory findings consistent with TTP/HUS occur. (5.1)
- Acute renal failure: May occur in elderly patients (with or without reduced renal function), patients with underlying renal disease who receive higher-than-recommended doses of valacyclovir for their level of renal function, patients who receive concomitant nephrotoxic drugs, or inadequately hydrated patients. Use with caution in elderly patients and reduce dosage in patients with renal impairment. (2.4, 5.2)
- Central nervous system adverse reactions (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, confusion, and encephalopathy): May occur in both adult and pediatric patients (with or without reduced renal function) and in patients with underlying renal disease who receive higher-than-recommended doses of valacyclovir for their level of renal function. Elderly patients are more likely to have central nervous system adverse reactions. Use with caution in elderly patients and reduce dosage in patients with renal impairment. (2.4, 5.3)

#### ADVERSE REACTIONS

- The most common adverse reactions reported in at least one indication by greater than 10% of adult subjects treated with valacyclovir and more commonly than in subjects treated with placebo are headache, nausea, and abdominal pain. (6.1)
- The only adverse reaction occurring in greater than 10% of pediatric subjects aged less than 18 years was headache. (6.2)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Hetero Labs Limited at 1-866-495-1995 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 10/2023

**Reduction of Transmission:** In a clinical trial for the reduction of transmission of genital herpes, the adverse reactions reported by subjects receiving valacyclovir 500 mg once daily (n = 743) or placebo once daily (n = 741), respectively, included headache (29%, 26%), nasopharyngitis (16%, 15%), and upper respiratory tract infection (9%, 10%).

#### Herpes Zoster

In 2 clinical trials for the treatment of herpes zoster, the adverse reactions reported by subjects receiving valacyclovir 1 gram 3 times daily for 7 to 14 days (n = 967) or placebo (n = 195), respectively, included nausea (15%, 8%), headache (14%, 12%), vomiting (6%, 3%), dizziness (3%, 2%), and abdominal pain (3%, 2%). For the incidence of laboratory abnormalities see Table 2.

Table 2. Incidence (%) of Laboratory Abnormalities in Herpes Zoster and Genital Herpes Trial Populations

Laboratory Abnormality	Herpes Zoster		Genital Herpes Treatment		Genital Herpes Suppression	
	Valacyclovir 1 gram 3 Times Daily (n = 967)	Placebo (n = 195)	Valacyclovir 1 gram Twice Daily (n = 1,194)	Placebo (n = 439)	Valacyclovir 1 gram Once Daily (n = 269)	Valacyclovir 500 mg Once Daily (n = 134)
Hemoglobin (<0.8 x LLN)	0.8%	0%	0.3%	0.2%	0%	0.8%
White blood cells (<0.75 x LLN)	1.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	1.5%
Platelet count (<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	1.0%	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	1.1%
AST (SGOT) (>2 x ULN)	1.0%	0%	1.0%	0.5%	4.1%	3.8%
Serum creatinine (>1.5 x ULN)	0.2%	0%	0.7%	0%	0%	0%

\* Data were not collected prospectively.

LLN = Lower limit of normal.

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

#### 6.2 Clinical Trials Experience in Pediatric Subjects

The safety profile of valacyclovir has been studied in 177 pediatric subjects aged 1 month to less than 18 years. Sixty-five of these pediatric subjects, aged 12 to less than 18 years, received oral tablets for 1 to 2 days for treatment of cold sores. The remaining 112 pediatric subjects, aged 1 month to less than 12 years, participated in 3 pharmacokinetic and safety trials and received valacyclovir oral suspension. Fifty-one of these 112 pediatric subjects received oral suspension for 3 to 6 days. The frequency, intensity, and nature of clinical adverse reactions and laboratory abnormalities were similar to those seen in adults.

##### Pediatric Subjects Aged 12 to Less than 18 Years (Cold Sores)

In clinical trials for the treatment of cold sores, the adverse reactions reported by adolescent subjects receiving valacyclovir 2 grams twice daily for 1 day, or valacyclovir 2 grams twice daily for 1 day followed by 1 gram twice daily for 1 day (n = 65, across both dosing groups), or placebo (n = 30), respectively, included headache (17%, 3%) and nausea (8%, 0%).

##### Pediatric Subjects Aged 1 Month to Less than 12 Years

Adverse events reported in more than 1 subject across the 3 pharmacokinetic and safety trials in children aged 1 month to less than 12 years were diarrhea (5%), pyrexia (4%), dehydration (2%), herpes simplex (2%), and rhinorrhea (2%). No clinically meaningful changes in laboratory values were observed.

#### 6.3 Postmarketing Experience

In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during postmarketing use of valacyclovir. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to valacyclovir.

##### General

Facial edema, hypertension, tachycardia.

##### Allergic

Acute hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis, angioedema, dyspnea, pruritus, rash, and urticaria [see *Contraindications* (4)].

##### Central Nervous System (CNS) Symptoms

Aggressive behavior; agitation; ataxia; coma; confusion; decreased consciousness; dysarthria; encephalopathy; mania; and psychosis, including auditory and visual hallucinations, seizures, tremors [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.5, 8.6)].

##### Eye

Visual abnormalities.

##### Gastrointestinal

Diarrhea.

##### Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas

Liver enzyme abnormalities, hepatitis.

##### Renal

Renal failure, renal pain (may be associated with renal failure) [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.5, 8.6)].

##### Hematologic

Thrombocytopenia, aplastic anemia, leukocytoclastic vasculitis, TTP/HUS [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

##### Skin

Erythema multiforme, rashes including photosensitivity, alopecia.

#### 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

No clinically significant drug-drug or drug-food interactions with valacyclovir are known [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)].

#### 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

##### 8.1 Pregnancy

##### Risk Summary

Clinical data from several decades with valacyclovir and its metabolite, acyclovir, in pregnant women, have not identified a drug associated risk of major birth defects. There are insufficient data on the use of valacyclovir regarding miscarriage or adverse maternal or fetal outcomes (see *Data*). There are risks to the fetus associated with untreated herpes simplex during pregnancy (see *Clinical Considerations*).

In animal reproduction studies, no evidence of adverse developmental outcomes was observed with valacyclovir when administered to pregnant rats and rabbits at system exposures (AUC) 4 (rats) and 7 (rabbits) times the human exposure at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) (see *Data*).

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated populations is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcome. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2% to 4% and 15% to 20%, respectively.

##### Clinical Considerations

**Disease-Associated Maternal and/or Embryo/Fetal Risk:** The risk of neonatal HSV infection varies from 30% to 50% for genital HSV acquired in late pregnancy (third trimester), whereas with HSV acquisition in early pregnancy, the risk of neonatal infection is about 1%. A primary herpes occurrence during the first trimester of pregnancy has been associated with neonatal chorioretinitis, microcephaly, and, in rare cases, skin lesions. In very rare cases, transplacental transmission can occur resulting in congenital infection, including microcephaly, hepatosplenomegaly, intrauterine growth restriction, and stillbirth. Co-infection with HSV increases the risk of perinatal HIV transmission in women who had a clinical diagnosis of genital herpes during pregnancy.

##### Data

**Human Data:** Clinical data over several decades with valacyclovir and its metabolite, acyclovir, in pregnant women, based on published literature, have not identified a drug-associated risk of major birth defects. There are insufficient data on the use of valacyclovir regarding miscarriage or adverse maternal or fetal outcomes.

The Acyclovir and the Valacyclovir Pregnancy Registries, both population-based international prospective studies, collected pregnancy data through April 1999. The Acyclovir Registry documented outcomes of 1,246 infants and fetuses exposed to acyclovir during pregnancy (756 with earliest exposure during the first trimester, 197 during the second trimester, 291 during the third trimester, and 200 during the fourth trimester). The occurrence of major birth defects during first-trimester exposure to acyclovir was 3.2% (95% CI: 2.0% to 5.0%) and during any trimester of exposure was 2.6% (95% CI: 1.8% to 3.8%). The Valacyclovir Registry documented outcomes of 111 infants and fetuses exposed to valacyclovir during pregnancy (28 with earliest exposure in the first trimester, 31 during the second trimester, and 52 during the third trimester). The occurrence of major birth defects during first-trimester exposure to valacyclovir was 4.5% (95% CI: 0.24% to 24.9%) and during any trimester of exposure was 3.9% (95% CI: 1.3% to 10.7%).

Available studies have methodological limitations including insufficient sample size to support conclusions about overall malformation risk or for making comparisons of the frequencies of specific birth defects.

**Animal Data:** Valacyclovir was administered orally to pregnant rats and rabbits (up to 400 mg/kg/day) during organogenesis (Gestation Days 6 through 15, and 6 through 18, respectively). No adverse embryo-fetal effects were observed in rats and rabbits at acyclovir exposures (AUC) of up to approximately 4 (rats) and 7 (rabbits) times the exposure in humans at the MRHD. Early embryo death, fetal growth retardation (weight and length), and variations in fetal skeletal development (primarily extra ribs and delayed ossification of sternbrae) were observed in rats and associated with maternal toxicity (200 mg/kg/day; approximately 6 times higher than human exposure at the MRHD).

In a pre/postnatal development study, valacyclovir was administered orally to pregnant rats (up to 200 mg/kg/day from Gestation Day 15 to Post-Partum Day 20) from late gestation through lactation. No significant adverse effects were observed in offspring exposed daily from birth through lactation at maternal exposures (AUC) of approximately 6 times higher than human exposures at the MRHD.

#### 8.2 Lactation

##### Risk Summary

Although there is no information on the presence of valacyclovir in human milk, its metabolite, acyclovir, is present in human milk following oral administration of valacyclovir. Based on published data, a 500-mg maternal dose of valacyclovir twice daily would provide a breastfed child with an oral acyclovir dosage of approximately 0.6 mg/kg/day (see *Data*). There is no data on the effects of valacyclovir or acyclovir on the breastfed child or on milk production. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for valacyclovir and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from valacyclovir or from the underlying maternal condition.

##### Data

Following oral administration of a 500-mg dose of valacyclovir to 5 lactating women, peak acyclovir concentrations (C<sub>max</sub>) in breast milk ranged from 0.5 to 2.3 times (median 1.4) the corresponding maternal acyclovir serum concentrations. The acyclovir breast milk AUC ranged from 1.4 to 2.6 times (median 2.2) maternal serum AUC. A 500-mg maternal dose of valacyclovir twice daily would provide a breastfed child with an oral acyclovir dosage of approximately 0.6 mg/kg/day. Unchanged valacyclovir was not detected in maternal serum, breast milk or infant urine.

#### 8.4 Pediatric Use

Valacyclovir is indicated for treatment of cold sores in pediatric patients aged greater than or equal to 12 years and for treatment of chickenpox in pediatric patients aged 2 to less than 18 years [see *Indications and Usage* (1.2), *Dosage and Administration* (2.2)]. The use of valacyclovir for treatment of cold sores is based on 2 double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials in healthy adults and adolescents (aged greater than or equal to 12 years) with a history of recurrent cold sores [see *Clinical Studies* (14.1)]. The use of valacyclovir tablets for treatment of chickenpox in pediatric patients aged 2 to less than 18 years is based on single-dose pharmacokinetic and multiple-dose safety data from an open-label trial with valacyclovir and supported by efficacy and safety data from 3 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials evaluating oral acyclovir in pediatric subjects with chickenpox [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.2), *Adverse Reactions* (6.2), *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3), *Clinical Studies* (14.4)].

The efficacy and safety of valacyclovir have not been established in pediatric patients:

- aged less than 12 years with cold sores
- aged less than 12 years with genital herpes
- aged less than 18 years with herpes zoster
- aged less than 2 years with chickenpox
- for suppressive therapy following neonatal HSV infection.

The pharmacokinetic profile and safety of valacyclovir oral suspension in children aged less than 12 years were studied in 3 open-label trials. No efficacy evaluations were conducted in any of the 3 trials.

Trial 1 was a single-dose pharmacokinetic, multiple-dose safety trial in 27 pediatric subjects aged 1 to less than 12 years with clinically suspected varicella-zoster virus (VZV) infection [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.2), *Adverse Reactions* (6.2), *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3), *Clinical Studies* (14.4)].

Trial 2 was a single-dose pharmacokinetic and safety trial in pediatric subjects aged 1 month to less than 6 years who had an active herpes virus infection or who were at risk for herpes virus infection. Fifty-seven subjects were enrolled and received a single dose of 25 mg/kg valacyclovir oral suspension. In infants and children aged 3 months to less than 6 years, this dose provided comparable systemic acyclovir exposures to that from a 1-gram dose of valacyclovir in adults (historical data). In infants aged 1 month to less than 3 months, mean acyclovir exposures resulting from a 25-mg/kg dose were higher (C<sub>max</sub>: 130%, AUC: 160%) than acyclovir exposures following a 1-gram dose of valacyclovir in adults. Acyclovir is not approved for suppressive therapy in infants and children following neonatal HSV infections; therefore, valacyclovir is not recommended for this indication because efficacy cannot be extrapolated from acyclovir.

Trial 3 was a single-dose pharmacokinetic, multiple-dose safety trial in 28 pediatric subjects aged 1 to less than 12 years with clinically suspected HSV infection. None of the subjects enrolled in this trial had genital herpes. Each subject was dosed with valacyclovir oral suspension 10 mg/kg twice daily for 3 to 5 days. Acyclovir systemic exposures in pediatric subjects following valacyclovir oral suspension were compared with historical acyclovir systemic exposures in immunocompetent adults receiving the solid oral dosage form of valacyclovir or acyclovir for the treatment of recurrent genital herpes. The mean projected daily acyclovir systemic exposures in pediatric subjects across all age-groups (1 to less than 12 years) were lower (C<sub>max</sub>: 20%, AUC: 33%) compared with the acyclovir systemic exposures in adults receiving valacyclovir 500 mg twice daily but were higher (daily AUC: 116%) than systemic exposures in adults receiving acyclovir 200 mg 5 times daily. Insufficient data are available to support valacyclovir for the treatment of recurrent genital herpes in this age-group because clinical information on recurrent genital herpes in young children is limited; therefore, extrapolating efficacy data from adults to this population is not possible. Moreover, valacyclovir has not been studied in children aged 1 to less than 12 years with recurrent genital herpes.

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\*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

Table 1. Valacyclovir Tablets Dosage Recommendations for Adults with Renal Impairment

Indications	Normal Dosage Regimen (Creatinine Clearance ≥50 mL/min)	Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)		
		30 to 49	10 to 29	<10
<b>Cold sores (Herpes Labialis)</b> Do not exceed 1 day of treatment.	Two 2-gram doses taken 12 hours apart	Two 1-gram doses taken 12 hours apart	Two 500-mg doses taken 12 hours apart	500-mg single dose
<b>Genital herpes: Initial episode</b>	1 gram every 12 hours	no reduction	1 gram every 24 hours	500 mg every 24 hours
<b>Genital herpes: Recurrent episode</b>	500 mg every 12 hours	no reduction	500 mg every 24 hours	500 mg every 24 hours
<b>Genital herpes: Suppressive therapy</b>				
Immunocompetent patients	1 gram every 24 hours	no reduction	500 mg every 24 hours	500 mg every 24 hours
Alternate dose for immunocompetent patients with less than or equal to 9 recurrences/year	500 mg every 24 hours	no reduction	500 mg every 48 hours	500 mg every 48 hours
HIV-1-infected patients	500 mg every 12 hours	no reduction	500 mg every 24 hours	500 mg every 24 hours
<b>Herpes zoster</b>	1 gram every 8 hours	1 gram every 12 hours	1 gram every 24 hours	500 mg every 24 hours

#### Hemodialysis

Patients requiring hemodialysis should receive the recommended dose of valacyclovir tablets after hemodialysis. During hemodialysis, the half-life of acyclovir after administration of valacyclovir tablets is approximately 4 hours. About one-third of acyclovir in the body is removed by dialysis during a 4-hour hemodialysis session.

#### Peritoneal Dialysis

There is no information specific to administration of valacyclovir tablets in patients receiving peritoneal dialysis. The effect of chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) and continuous arteriovenous hemofiltration/dialysis (CAVHD) on acyclovir pharmacokinetics has been studied. The removal of acyclovir after CAPD and CAVHD is less pronounced than with hemodialysis, and the pharmacokinetic parameters closely resemble those observed in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) not receiving hemodialysis. Therefore, supplemental doses of valacyclovir tablets should not be required following CAPD or CAVHD.

#### 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

##### Tablets:

- 500 mg; blue, film-coated, capsule shaped tablets, debossed with '1' on one side and '96' on other side.
- 1 gm; white to off-white, film-coated, capsule shaped tablets, debossed with '1' on one side and '87' on other side with partial scorebar on both sides.

#### 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Valacyclovir tablets are contraindicated in patients who have had a demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to valacyclovir, acyclovir, or any component of the formulation [see *Adverse Reactions* (6.3)].

#### 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

##### 5.1 Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura/Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (TTP/HUS)

TTP/HUS, in some cases resulting in death, has occurred in patients with advanced HIV-1 disease and also in allogeneic bone marrow transplant and renal transplant recipients participating in clinical trials of valacyclovir at doses of 8 grams per day. Treatment with valacyclovir should be stopped immediately if clinical signs, symptoms, and laboratory abnormalities consistent with TTP/HUS occur.

##### 5.2 Acute Renal Failure

Cases of acute renal failure have been reported in:

- Elderly patients with or without reduced renal function. Caution should be exercised when administering valacyclovir to geriatric patients, and dosage reduction is recommended for those with impaired renal function [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.4), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.5)].
- Patients with underlying renal disease who received higher-than-recommended doses of valacyclovir for their level of renal function. Dosage reduction is recommended when administering valacyclovir to patients with renal impairment [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.4), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.6)].
- Patients receiving other nephrotoxic drugs. Caution should be exercised when administering valacyclovir to patients receiving potentially nephrotoxic drugs.
- Patients without adequate hydration. Precipitation of acyclovir in renal tubules may occur when the solubility (2.5 mg/mL) is exceeded in the intratubular fluid. Adequate hydration should be maintained for all patients.

In the event of acute renal failure and anuria, the patient may benefit from hemodialysis until renal function is restored [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.4), *Adverse Reactions* (6.3)].

##### 5.3 Central Nervous System Effects

Central nervous system adverse reactions, including agitation, hallucinations, confusion, delirium, seizures, and encephalopathy, have been reported in both adult and pediatric patients with or without reduced renal function and in patients with underlying renal disease who received higher-than-recommended doses of valacyclovir for their level of renal function. Elderly patients are more likely to have central nervous system adverse reactions. Valacyclovir should be discontinued if central nervous system adverse reactions occur [see *Adverse Reactions* (6.3), *Use in Specific Populations* (8.5, 8.6)].

#### 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The



### 8.5 Geriatric Use

Of the total number of subjects in clinical trials of valacyclovir, 906 were 65 and over, and 352 were 75 and over. In a clinical trial of herpes zoster, the duration of pain after healing (post-herpetic neuralgia) was longer in subjects 65 and older compared with younger adults. Elderly patients are more likely to have reduced renal function and require dose reduction. Elderly patients are also more likely to have renal or CNS adverse events [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Warnings and Precautions (5.2, 5.3), Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].

### 8.6 Renal Impairment

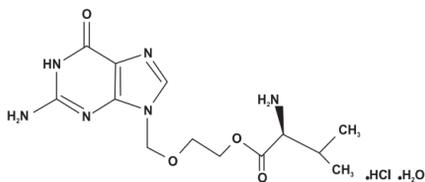
Dosage reduction is recommended when administering valacyclovir to patients with renal impairment [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Warnings and Precautions (5.2, 5.3)].

### 10 OVERDOSE

Caution should be exercised to prevent inadvertent overdose [see Use in Specific Populations (8.5, 8.6)]. Precipitation of acyclovir in renal tubules may occur when the solubility (2.5 mg/mL) is exceeded in the intratubular fluid. In the event of acute renal failure and anuria, the patient may benefit from hemodialysis until renal function is restored [see Dosage and Administration (2.4)].

### 11 DESCRIPTION

Valacyclovir hydrochloride is the hydrochloride salt of the L-valyl ester of the antiviral drug acyclovir. Valacyclovir tablets, USP are for oral administration. Each tablet contains 556.0 mg or 1.112 grams of valacyclovir hydrochloride USP equivalent to 500 mg or 1 gm of valacyclovir, respectively, and the inactive ingredients croscopolone, hydroxypropylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate 80, povidone, and titanium dioxide. In addition to this 500 mg contains FD&C blue #2/indigo carmine aluminum lake. The chemical name of valacyclovir hydrochloride is L-valine-2-[(2-amino-1,6-dihydro-6-oxo-9H-purin-9-yl)methoxy]ethyl ester hydrochloride monohydrate. It has the following structural formula:



Valacyclovir hydrochloride USP (monohydrate) is a white or almost white powder with the molecular formula C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Cl and a molecular weight of 378.81. Valacyclovir hydrochloride USP is freely soluble in water and practically insoluble in 1-octanol. The pKa for valacyclovir hydrochloride is 5.95. FDA approved dissolution test specifications differ from USP.

### 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

#### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Valacyclovir is an antiviral drug active against  $\alpha$ -herpes viruses [see Microbiology (12.4)].

#### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of valacyclovir and acyclovir after oral administration of valacyclovir have been investigated in 14 volunteer trials involving 283 adults and in 3 trials involving 112 pediatric subjects aged 1 month to less than 12 years.

#### Pharmacokinetics in Adults

**Absorption and Bioavailability:** After oral administration, valacyclovir hydrochloride is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and nearly completely converted to acyclovir and L-valine by first-pass intestinal and/or hepatic metabolism. The absolute bioavailability of acyclovir after administration of valacyclovir is 54.5%  $\pm$  9.1% as determined following a 1-gm oral dose of valacyclovir and a 350-mg intravenous acyclovir dose to 12 healthy volunteers. Acyclovir bioavailability from the administration of valacyclovir is not altered by administration with food (30 minutes after an 873 Kcal breakfast, which included 51 grams of fat).

Acyclovir pharmacokinetic parameter estimates following administration of valacyclovir to healthy adult volunteers are presented in Table 3. There was a less than dose-proportional increase in acyclovir maximum concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) and area under the acyclovir concentration-time curve (AUC) after single-dose and multiple-dose administration (4 times daily) of valacyclovir from doses between 250 mg to 1 gram.

There is no accumulation of acyclovir after the administration of valacyclovir at the recommended dosage regimens in adults with normal renal function.

**Table 3. Mean ( $\pm$ SD) Plasma Acyclovir Pharmacokinetic Parameters Following Administration of Valacyclovir to Healthy Adult Volunteers**

Dose	Single-Dose Administration (N = 8)		Multiple-Dose Administration* (N = 24, 8 per treatment arm)	
	C <sub>max</sub> ( $\pm$ SD) (mcg/mL)	AUC ( $\pm$ SD) (h•mcg/mL)	C <sub>max</sub> ( $\pm$ SD) (mcg/mL)	AUC ( $\pm$ SD) (h•mcg/mL)
100 mg	0.83 ( $\pm$ 0.14)	2.28 ( $\pm$ 0.40)	ND	ND
250 mg	2.15 ( $\pm$ 0.50)	5.76 ( $\pm$ 0.60)	2.11 ( $\pm$ 0.33)	5.66 ( $\pm$ 1.09)
500 mg	3.28 ( $\pm$ 0.83)	11.59 ( $\pm$ 1.79)	3.69 ( $\pm$ 0.87)	9.88 ( $\pm$ 2.01)
750 mg	4.17 ( $\pm$ 1.14)	14.11 ( $\pm$ 3.54)	ND	ND
1,000 mg	5.65 ( $\pm$ 2.37)	19.52 ( $\pm$ 6.04)	4.96 ( $\pm$ 0.64)	15.70 ( $\pm$ 2.27)

\* Administered 4 times daily for 11 days. ND = not done.

**Distribution:** The binding of valacyclovir to human plasma proteins ranges from 13.5% to 17.9%. The binding of acyclovir to human plasma proteins ranges from 9% to 33%.

**Metabolism:** Valacyclovir is converted to acyclovir and L-valine by first-pass intestinal and/or hepatic metabolism. Acyclovir is converted to a small extent to inactive metabolites by aldehyde oxidase and by alcohol and aldehyde dehydrogenase. Neither valacyclovir nor acyclovir is metabolized by cytochrome P450 enzymes. Plasma concentrations of unconverted valacyclovir are low and transient, generally becoming non-quantifiable by 3 hours after administration. Peak plasma valacyclovir concentrations are generally less than 0.5 mcg/mL at all doses. After single-dose administration of 1 gram of valacyclovir, average plasma valacyclovir concentrations observed were 0.5, 0.4, and 0.8 mcg/mL in subjects with hepatic dysfunction, renal insufficiency, and in healthy subjects who received concomitant cimetidine and probenecid, respectively.

**Elimination:** The pharmacokinetic disposition of acyclovir delivered by valacyclovir is consistent with previous experience from intravenous and oral acyclovir. Following the oral administration of a single 1-gram dose of radiolabeled valacyclovir to 4 healthy subjects, 46% and 47% of administered radioactivity was recovered in urine and feces, respectively, over 96 hours. Acyclovir accounted for 89% of the radioactivity excreted in the urine. Renal clearance of acyclovir following the administration of a single 1-gram dose of valacyclovir to 12 healthy subjects was approximately 255  $\pm$  86 mL/min which represents 42% of total acyclovir apparent plasma clearance. The plasma elimination half-life of acyclovir typically averaged 2.5 to 3.3 hours in all trials of valacyclovir in subjects with normal renal function.

#### Specific Populations

**Patients with Renal Impairment:** Reduction in dosage is recommended in patients with renal impairment [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Use in Specific Populations (8.5, 8.6)].

Following administration of valacyclovir to subjects with ESRD, the average acyclovir half-life is approximately 14 hours. During hemodialysis, the acyclovir half-life is approximately 4 hours. Approximately one-third of acyclovir in the body is removed by dialysis during a 4-hour hemodialysis session. Apparent plasma clearance of acyclovir in subjects on dialysis was 86.3  $\pm$  21.3 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> compared with 679.16  $\pm$  162.76 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> in healthy subjects.

**Patients with Hepatic Impairment:** Administration of valacyclovir to subjects with moderate (biopsy-proven cirrhosis) or severe (with and without ascites and biopsy-proven cirrhosis) liver disease indicated that the rate but not the extent of conversion of valacyclovir to acyclovir is reduced, and the acyclovir half-life is not affected. Dosage modification is not recommended for patients with cirrhosis. **Patients with HIV-1 Disease:** In 8 subjects with HIV-1 disease and CD4<sup>+</sup> cell counts less than 150 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> who received valacyclovir at a dosage of 1 gram 4 times daily for 30 days, the pharmacokinetics of valacyclovir and acyclovir were not different from that observed in healthy subjects.

**Geriatric Patients:** After single-dose administration of 1 gram of valacyclovir in healthy geriatric subjects, the half-life of acyclovir was 3.11  $\pm$  0.51 hours compared with 2.91  $\pm$  0.63 hours in healthy younger adult subjects. The pharmacokinetics of acyclovir following single- and multiple-dose oral administration of valacyclovir in geriatric subjects varied with renal function. Dose reduction may be required in geriatric patients, depending on the underlying renal status of the patient [see Dosage and Administration (2.4), Use in Specific Populations (8.5, 8.6)].

**Pediatric Patients:** Acyclovir pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in a total of 98 pediatric subjects (aged 1 month to less than 12 years) following administration of the first dose of an extemporaneous oral suspension of valacyclovir [see Adverse Reactions (8.2), Use in Specific Populations (8.4)]. Acyclovir pharmacokinetic parameter estimates following a 20-mg/kg dose are provided in Table 4.

**Table 4. Mean ( $\pm$ SD) Plasma Acyclovir Pharmacokinetic Parameter Estimates Following First-Dose Administration of 20 mg/kg Valacyclovir Oral Suspension to Pediatric Subjects vs. 1-gram Single Dose of Valacyclovir to Adults**

Parameter	Pediatric Subjects (20 mg/kg Oral Suspension)			Adults 1-gram Solid Dose of Valacyclovir* (n = 15)
	1 - <2 year (n = 6)	2 - <6 year (n = 12)	6 - <12 year (n = 8)	
AUC (mcg•h/mL)	14.4 ( $\pm$ 6.26)	10.1 ( $\pm$ 3.35)	13.1 ( $\pm$ 3.43)	17.2 ( $\pm$ 3.10)
C <sub>max</sub> (mcg/mL)	4.03 ( $\pm$ 1.37)	3.75 ( $\pm$ 1.14)	4.71 ( $\pm$ 1.20)	4.72 ( $\pm$ 1.37)

\* Historical estimates using pediatric pharmacokinetic sampling schedule.

#### Drug Interactions/ Studies

When valacyclovir is coadministered with antacids, cimetidine and/or probenecid, digoxin, or thiazide diuretics in patients with normal renal function, the effects are not considered to be of clinical significance (see below). Therefore, when valacyclovir is coadministered with these drugs in patients with normal renal function, no dosage adjustment is recommended.

**Antacids:** The pharmacokinetics of acyclovir after a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) were unchanged by coadministration of a single dose of antacids (Al<sup>3+</sup> or Mg<sup>2+</sup>).

**Cimetidine:** Acyclovir C<sub>max</sub> and AUC following a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) increased by 8% and 32%, respectively, after a single dose of cimetidine (800 mg).

**Cimetidine Plus Probenecid:** Acyclovir C<sub>max</sub> and AUC following a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) increased by 30% and 78%, respectively, after a combination of cimetidine and probenecid, primarily due to a reduction in renal clearance of acyclovir.

**Digoxin:** The pharmacokinetics of digoxin were not affected by coadministration of valacyclovir 1 gram 3 times daily, and the pharmacokinetics of acyclovir after a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) was unchanged by coadministration of digoxin (2 doses of 0.75 mg).

**Probenecid:** Acyclovir C<sub>max</sub> and AUC following a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) increased by 22% and 49%, respectively, after probenecid (1 gram).

**Thiazide Diuretics:** The pharmacokinetics of acyclovir after a single dose of valacyclovir (1 gram) were unchanged by coadministration of multiple doses of thiazide diuretics.

#### 12.4 Microbiology

##### Mechanism of Action

Valacyclovir is a deoxynucleoside analogue DNA polymerase inhibitor. Valacyclovir hydrochloride is rapidly converted to acyclovir, which has demonstrated antiviral activity against HSV types 1 (HSV-1) and 2 (HSV-2) and VZV both in cell culture and *in vivo*.

Acyclovir is a synthetic purine deoxynucleoside that is phosphorylated intracellularly by the viral encoded thymidine kinase (TK; pUL23) of HSV or VZV into acyclovir monophosphate, a nucleotide analogue. The monophosphate is further converted into diphosphate by cellular guanylate kinase and into triphosphate by a number of cellular enzymes. In biochemical assays, acyclovir triphosphate inhibits replication of  $\alpha$ -herpes viral DNA. This is accomplished in 3 ways: 1) competitive inhibition of viral DNA polymerase, 2) incorporation and termination of the growing viral DNA chain, and 3) inactivation of the viral DNA polymerase. The greater antiviral activity of acyclovir against HSV compared with VZV is due to its more efficient phosphorylation by the viral TK.

##### Antiviral Activity

The quantitative relationship between the cell culture susceptibility of herpesviruses to antivirals and the clinical response to therapy has not been established in humans, and virus sensitivity testing has not been standardized. Sensitivity testing results, expressed as the concentration of drug required to inhibit by 50% the growth of virus in cell culture (EC<sub>50</sub>), vary greatly depending upon a number of factors. Using plaque-reduction assays, the EC<sub>50</sub> values against herpes simplex virus isolates range from 0.09 to 0.60 microM (0.02 to 13.5 mcg/mL) for HSV-1 and from 0.04 to 44 microM (0.01 to 9.9 mcg/mL) for HSV-2. The EC<sub>50</sub> values for acyclovir against most laboratory strains and clinical isolates of VZV range from 0.53 to 48 microM (0.12 to 10.8 mcg/mL). Acyclovir also demonstrates activity against the Okazaki vaccine strain of VZV with a mean EC<sub>50</sub> value of 6 microM (1.35 mcg/mL).

##### Resistance

**In Cell Culture:** Acyclovir-resistant HSV-1, HSV-2, and VZV strains were isolated in cell culture. Acyclovir-resistant HSV and VZV resulted from mutations in the viral thymidine kinase (TK, pUL23) and DNA polymerase (POL; pUL30) genes. Frameshifts were commonly isolated and result in premature truncation of the HSV TK product with consequent decreased susceptibility to acyclovir. Mutations in the viral TK gene may lead to complete loss of TK activity (TK negative), reduced levels of TK activity (TK partial), or alteration in the ability of viral TK to phosphorylate the drug without an equivalent loss in the ability to phosphorylate thymidine (TK altered). In cell culture, acyclovir resistance-associated substitutions in TK of HSV-1 and HSV-2 were observed (Table 5).

**Table 5. Summary of Acyclovir Resistance-Associated Amino Acid Substitutions in Cell Culture**

Virus	Gene	Substitution
HSV-1	TK	P5A, H7Q, L50V, G56V, G59R/V/W/A, G61A/V, K62I/N, T63A, E83K, P84L/S, R89W, D116N, P131S, P155R, F161C, R162H/P, A167V, P173L, R176Q/W, Q185R, A189L/V, G200S, G206R, R216S, R220H, L227F, Y239S, T245M, Q261stop, R281stop, T287M, M322K, C336V, V348A
HSV-2	TK	L69P, C172R, A175V, T288M
HSV-1	POL	D368A, Y557S, E597D, V621S, L702H, A719V, S742N, N815S, V817M, Y818C, G841C/S
HSV-2	POL	No substitutions detected

**HSV-Infected Patients:** Clinical HSV-1 and HSV-2 isolates obtained from patients who failed treatment for their  $\alpha$ -herpes virus infections were evaluated for genotypic changes in the TK and POL genes and for phenotypic resistance to acyclovir (Table 6). HSV isolates with frameshift mutations and resistance-associated substitutions in TK and POL were identified. The listing of substitutions in the HSV TK and POL leading to decreased susceptibility to acyclovir is not all inclusive and additional changes will likely be identified in HSV variants isolated from patients who fail acyclovir-containing regimens. The possibility of viral resistance to acyclovir should be considered in patients who fail to respond or experience recurrent viral shedding during therapy.

**Table 6. Summary of Acyclovir Resistance-Associated Amino Acid Substitutions Observed in Treated Patients**

Virus	Gene	Substitution
HSV-1	TK	G6C, R32H, R41H, R51W, Y53C/D/H, Y53stop, D55N, G56D/E/S, P57H, G58N/R, G59R, G61A/E/W, K62N, T63I, O67stop, S74stop, Y80N, E83K, P84L, Y87H, E95stop, T103P, Q104H, Q104stop, H105P, M121K/L/R, Q125N, M128L, G129D, I143V, A156V, D162A/H/N, R163G/H, L170P, Y172C, P173L/R, A174P, A175V, R176Q/W, R176stop, L178R, S181M, A186P, V187M, A189V, V192A, G200C/D/S, T201P, T202A, V204G, A207P, L208F/H, R216C/H, R220C/H, R221C/H, R222C/H, E226K, Q229H, L242P, T245M/P, L248P, Q258stop, Q251G, E257K, Q261R, A265T, R281stop, T287M, L286stop, L291R, L297S, L315S, L327R, C336Y, C336stop, Q342stop, T354P, L364P, A365I
HSV-2	TK	G25A, R34C, G39E, R51W, Y53N/D, G59P, G61A/E/W, S66P, A72S, D78N, P85S, R86P, A94V, L98stop, N100H, I101S, Q103stop, Q105P, A125T, I131P, Y133F, D137stop, F140L, L158P, S169P, R177W, S182N, M183stop, Y192M, G201D, R217H, R221C/H, Q222stop, R223H, Q229stop, Y238stop, Q231N, L263stop, R271V, P272S, D273R, T287M, C337Y
HSV-1	POL	K532T, S559L, O570R, L583V, A605V, V621S, A657T, D672N, V715G, A719T/V, S742N, F733C, E771Q, S775N, L778M, E798K, V813M, N815S, G841S, R842S, I890M, V958L, H1228D
HSV-2	POL	E250Q, Q307N, K533E, A606V, G625R, R628C, E678G, A724V, S725G, S729N, I731F, Q732R, D785N, M789K/T, V818A, N820S, Y823C, Q829R, T843A, M910T, D912N/V, A915V, F923L, T934A, R964H

Note: Many additional pathways to acyclovir resistance likely exist.

##### Cross-Resistance

Cross-resistance has been observed among HSV isolates carrying frameshift mutations and resistance-associated substitutions, which confer reduced susceptibility to penciclovir (PCV), famciclovir (FCV), and foscarnet (FOS) (Table 7).

**Table 7. Summary of Acyclovir Resistance-Associated Amino Acid Substitutions Conferring Cross-Resistance to PCV, FCV or FOS**

Cross-Resistant Drug	Virus/Gene	Substitution
PCV/FCV	HSV-1 TK	G6C, R32H, R51W, Y53C/H/N, H58N, G61A, S74stop, E83K, P84L, T103P, Q104stop, D116N, M121R, I143V, P155R, R163G/H, A167V, L170P, Y172C, P173L, A174P, R176Q/W, Q185R, A186P, A189L/V, G200D/S, G206R, L208H, R216C, R220H, R222C/H, Y239S, T245M, Q258stop, Q261stop, R281stop, T287M, L315S, M322K, C336V, V348A
	HSV-1 POL	A657T, D672N, V715G, A719V, S742N, E798K, N815S, G841C/S
	HSV-2 TK	G39E, R51W, Y53N, R86P, Y133F, R177M, R221H, T288M
	HSV-2 POL	K533E, A606V, G625R, R628C, S729N, Q732R, M789K/T, V818A, N820S, F923L, T934A
FOS	HSV-1 POL	D368A, A605V, D672N, L702H, V715G, A719T/V, S742N, L778M, E798K, V813M, N815S, V817M, G841C/S, I890M
	HSV-2 POL	K533E, A606V, G625R, R628C, A724V, S725G, S729N, I731F, Q732R, M789K/T, V818A, Y823C, D912V, F923L, T934A, R964H

### 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

#### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

The data presented below include references to the steady-state acyclovir AUC observed in humans treated with 1 gram of valacyclovir given orally 3 times a day to treat herpes zoster. Plasma drug concentrations in animal studies are expressed as multiples of human exposure to acyclovir [see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].

#### Carcinogenesis

Valacyclovir was noncarcinogenic in lifetime carcinogenicity bioassays at single daily doses (gavage) of valacyclovir giving plasma acyclovir concentrations equivalent to human levels in the mouse bioassay and 1.4 to 2.3 times human levels in the rat bioassay. There was no significant difference in the incidence of tumors between treated and control animals, nor did valacyclovir shorten the latency of tumors.

#### Mutagenesis

Valacyclovir was tested in 5 genetic toxicity assays. An Ames assay was negative in the absence or presence of metabolic activation. Also negative were *in vitro* cytogenetic study with human lymphocytes and a rat cytogenetic study.

In the mouse lymphoma assay, valacyclovir was not mutagenic in the absence of metabolic activation. In the presence of metabolic activation (76% to 88% conversion to acyclovir), valacyclovir was mutagenic.

#### Valacyclovir was mutagenic in a mouse micronucleus assay.

#### Impairment of Fertility

Valacyclovir did not impair fertility or reproduction in male or female rats at acyclovir exposures (AUC) 6 times higher than in humans given the MRHD. Testicular atrophy occurred in male rats (orally dosed for 97 days at 18 times the MRHD) and was reversible.

### 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

#### 14.1 Cold Sores (Herpes Labialis)

Two double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials were conducted in 1,856 healthy adults and adolescents (aged greater than or equal to 12 years) with a history of recurrent cold sores. Subjects self-initiated therapy at the earliest symptoms and prior to any signs of a cold sore. The majority of subjects initiated treatment within 2 hours of onset of symptoms. Subjects were randomized to valacyclovir 2 grams twice daily on Day 1 followed by placebo on Day 2, valacyclovir 2 grams twice daily on Day 1 followed by 1 gram twice daily on Day 2, or placebo on Days 1 and 2. The mean duration of cold sore episodes was about 1 day shorter in treated subjects as compared with placebo. The 2-day regimen did not offer additional benefit over the 1-day regimen.

No significant difference was observed between subjects receiving valacyclovir or placebo in the prevention of progression of cold sore lesions beyond the papular stage.

#### 14.2 Genital Herpes Infections

##### Initial Episode

Six hundred forty-three immunocompetent adults with first-episode genital herpes who presented within 72 hours of symptom onset were randomized in a double-blind trial to receive 10 days of valacyclovir 1 gram twice daily (n = 323) or oral acyclovir 200 mg 5 times a day (n = 320). For both treatment groups the median time to lesion healing was 9 days, the median time to cessation of pain was 5 days, and the median time to cessation of viral shedding was 3 days.

##### Recurrent Episodes

Three double-blind trials (2 of them placebo-controlled) in immunocompetent adults with recurrent genital herpes were conducted. Subjects self-initiated therapy within 24 hours of the first sign or symptom of a recurrent genital herpes episode. In 1 trial, subjects were randomized to receive 5 days of treatment with either valacyclovir 500 mg twice daily (n = 360) or placebo (n = 259). The median time to lesion healing was 4 days in the group receiving valacyclovir 500 mg versus 6 days in the placebo group, and the median time to cessation of viral shedding in subjects with at least 1 positive culture (42% of the overall trial population) was 2 days in the group receiving valacyclovir 500 mg versus 4 days in the placebo group. The median time to cessation of pain was 3 days in the group receiving valacyclovir 500 mg versus 4 days in the placebo group. Results supporting efficacy were replicated in a second trial.

In a third trial, subjects were randomized to receive valacyclovir 500 mg twice daily for 5 days (n = 398) or valacyclovir 500 mg twice daily for 3 days (and matching placebo twice daily for 2 additional days) (n = 402). The median time to lesion healing was about 4 1/2 days in both treatment groups. The median time to cessation of pain was about 3 days in both treatment groups.

##### Suppressive Therapy

Two clinical trials were conducted, one in immunocompetent adults and one in HIV-1-infected adults. A double-blind, 12-month, placebo- and active-controlled trial enrolled immunocompetent adults with a history of 6 or more recurrences per year. Outcomes for the overall trial population are shown in Table 8.

**Table 8. Recurrence Rates in Immunocompetent Adults at 6 and 12 Months**

Outcome	6 Months			12 Months		
	Valacyclovir 1 gram Once Daily (n = 269)	Oral Acyclovir 400 mg Twice Daily (n = 267)	Placebo (n = 134)	Valacyclovir 1 gram Once Daily (n = 269)	Oral Acyclovir 400 mg Twice Daily (n = 267)	Placebo (n = 134)
Recurrence free	55%	54%	7%	34%	34%	4%
Recurrences	35%	36%	83%	46%	46%	85%
Unknown <sup>a</sup>	10%	10%	10%	19%	19%	10%

<sup>a</sup> Includes lost to follow-up, discontinuations due to adverse events, and consent withdrawn.

Subjects with 9 or fewer recurrences per year showed comparable results with valacyclovir 500 mg once daily.

In a second trial, 293 HIV-1-infected adults on stable antiretroviral therapy with a history of 4 or more recurrences of anogenital herpes per year were randomized to receive either valacyclovir 500 mg twice daily (n = 194) or matching placebo (n = 99) for 6 months. The median duration of recurrent genital herpes in enrolled subjects was 8 years, and the median number of recurrences in all subjects prior to enrollment was 5. Overall, the median oral HIV-1 RNA was 2.6 log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL. Among subjects who received valacyclovir, the pretrial median CD4<sup>+</sup> cell count was 336 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; 11% had less than 100 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; 16% had 100 to 199 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; 42% had 200 to 499 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; and 31% had greater than or equal to 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. Outcomes for the overall trial population are shown in Table 9.

**Table 9. Recurrence Rates in HIV-1-Infected Adults at 6 Months**

Outcome	Valacyclovir 500 mg Twice Daily (n = 194)	Placebo (n = 99)
	Recurrence free	65%
Recurrences	17%	57%
Unknown <sup>a</sup>	18%	17%

<sup>a</sup> Includes lost to follow-up, discontinuations due to adverse events, and consent withdrawn.

#### Reduction of Transmission of Genital Herpes

A double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to assess transmission of genital herpes was conducted in 1,484 monogamous, heterosexual, immunocompetent adult couples. The couples were discordant for HSV-2 infection. The source partner had a history of 9 or fewer genital herpes episodes per year. Both partners