

Acyclovir 5% Cream (ay-SYE-kloe-veer)

What is this medication used for

Acyclovir is used for the treatment of cold sores associated with the herpes simplex virus. Acyclovir belongs to a group of medications called anti-viral agents. Acyclovir works by stopping the growth of viruses that cause cold sores and speeds up the healing process of cold sores.

How to use this medication

Adults and Adolescents 12 years old and above

Wash and dry hands before and after use to prevent the spread of infection. Apply a thin layer to the affected area (only to lips and face) 5 times a day at the first sign of cold sore (e.g. tingling, pain, burning or blisters) and continue for 5 to 10 days (minimum of 5 days). Each application should be spaced 4 hours apart.

Do not share the tube of cream with others even if they have similar signs and symptoms. Avoid contact with eyes, mucous membranes inside the nose, mouth or vagina. If any cream gets into your eyes, rinse off with water. Avoid swallowing any cream. It is advisable to apply the cream after eating or drinking to avoid accidental swallowing. Seek immediate medical attention if you experience any unusual side effects.

If you forget or miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next application, skip the missed application and continue with next dose at the usual time.

Before you use this medication

Medical advice should be sought before use if you have any of the following conditions or symptoms: Low immunity, cold sores in the mouth or frequent episodes of cold sores (more than 4 times a year).

This cream should be avoided if you have a known history of allergy to acyclovir, valacyclovir, propylene glycol or any of the other listed ingredients in the product.

Acyclovir cream is generally safe for use during pregnancy and during breastfeeding. Please seek your doctor's or pharmacist's advice before using this medication if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Interactions with other medications

Be sure to inform your doctor and/or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or plan to take other medications, nutritional supplements or herbal products.

There are currently no known interactions where concomitant use should be avoided.

Side effects

Common side effects: Temporary burning or stinging sensation after applying the cream, mild drying or flaking of the skin.

When to seek further medical advice

Inform your doctor and/or pharmacist immediately if you experience any allergic symptoms (e.g. rashes, itchiness, difficulty in breathing or eye swelling) or serious side effects due to this medication.

Consult a doctor if condition worsens or does not improve after 10 days of use.

How should this medication be kept

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

Store in a cool dry place.

Do not refrigerate.

