

**VALGANCICLOVIR**

<b>Trade Name</b>	Valganciclovir (Mylan)
<b>Class</b>	Antiviral
<b>Mechanism of Action</b>	Inhibits viral DNA synthesis by competitively preventing binding of deoxyguanosine triphosphate to DNA polymerase.
<b>Indication</b> <b>Individual ID approval required for full treatment course</b>	Treatment of symptomatic cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection on advice of the paediatric infectious diseases consultant  16mg/kg/dose orally every 12 hours for 6 weeks
<b>Contraindications</b>	Hypersensitivity to ganciclovir or valganciclovir. Neutrophil count <0.5 Platelet count < 25 Haemoglobin < 80 g/L
<b>Supplied As</b>	60 mg/mL oral suspension  This suspension is required to be individually prepared from tablets by Optimus Pharmaceuticals in Auckland so there will be a delay in being able to supply. (alternative = Ganciclovir injection)
<b>Dilution</b>	Not required
<b>Dosage</b>	<b>Oral:</b> 16mg/kg/dose
<b>Interval</b>	12 hourly for 6 weeks
<b>Administration</b>	<b>Warning:</b> Valganciclovir, (and ganciclovir its active component), is potentially mutagenic and or carcinogenic and should be handled using the same precautions as for cytotoxics, wear apron, gloves and mask when preparing a dose and dispose of oral syringe in sharps container immediately after use.
<b>Compatible with</b>	N/A
<b>Incompatible with</b>	N/A
<b>Interactions</b>	Imipenem/cilastatin increases risk of seizure Concurrent use with tacrolimus increases risk of nephrotoxicity High fat meals may increase absorption
<b>Monitoring</b>	FBC including platelets, every 2-3 days during the first 3 weeks of treatment, then weekly . Monitoring of serum creatinine and ophthalmological exams is also advised.
<b>Stability</b>	As per manufacturers expiry
<b>Storage</b>	Reconstituted solution should be stored in the fridge at 2-8 °C.

<b>Adverse Reactions</b>	<p><b>More common side effects:</b> Chills, fever, headache, neuropathy, pruritis, sweating, feeding difficulties, diarrhoea, vomiting, anaemia, leukopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopaenia, increased risk of sepsis, increased serum creatinine, retinal detachment.</p> <p><b>Rare but serious:</b> alopecia, bronchospasm, dyspnoea, extrapyramidal side effects, haemorrhage, infertility, renal failure, seizures, SIADH, Stevens Johnson Syndrome, torades de point, visual loss.</p>
<b>Metabolism</b>	Rapidly converted to ganciclovir following metabolism in the small intestine and liver. Bioavailability is 60% if given with food. Cleared as ganciclovir via glomerular filtration and tubular secretion by the kidneys. Half life = 4 hours.
<b>Comments</b>	<p><b>Warning:</b> Ganciclovir is potentially mutagenic and or carcinogenic and should be handled using the same precautions as for cytotoxics.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> iv management of symptomatic CMV is with iv ganciclovir</p> <p>As at March 2022 valganciclovir 60 mg/mL suspension is not currently included on the HML. Application for an NPPA will therefore be required for dispensing in community.</p>
<b>References</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="http://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/neofax/neofax.php?sa=&amp;area=1&amp;subarea=0&amp;drugName=ValGANciclovir&amp;mode=NEO&amp;navitem=drugMonograph.view&amp;Category=0&amp;keyword=val&amp;Drug=neo%2F41">http://neofax.micromedexsolutions.com/neofax/neofax.php?sa=&amp;area=1&amp;subarea=0&amp;drugName=ValGANciclovir&amp;mode=NEO&amp;navitem=drugMonograph.view&amp;Category=0&amp;keyword=val&amp;Drug=neo%2F41</a></li> <li>2. <a href="http://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/v/Valcytetab.pdf">http://medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/v/Valcytetab.pdf</a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://www.nzfchildren.org.nz/nzf_3448">https://www.nzfchildren.org.nz/nzf_3448</a></li> <li>4. <a href="https://www.gene.com/medical-professionals/medicines/valcyte">https://www.gene.com/medical-professionals/medicines/valcyte</a></li> <li>5. <a href="https://www.uptodate.com/contents/valganciclovir-pediatric-drug-information?search=valganciclovir&amp;source=search_result&amp;selectedTitle=2~42&amp;usage_type=default&amp;display_rank=2">https://www.uptodate.com/contents/valganciclovir-pediatric-drug-information?search=valganciclovir&amp;source=search_result&amp;selectedTitle=2~42&amp;usage_type=default&amp;display_rank=2</a></li> </ol>
<b>Updated By</b>	<p>A.Lynn, B Robertshawe June 2018</p> <p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe March/April 2022</p>