

Renal Services

Valganciclovir: information for kidney transplant patients

What is Valganciclovir used for?

Valganciclovir is an anti-viral drug that is used to prevent cytomegalovirus disease (CMV). CMV is a virus that many people carry without being ill, but it is more likely to make you ill if you have a poor immune system.

How does Valganciclovir work?

Valganciclovir prevents virus levels from increasing and causing infection.

How to take Valganciclovir

Not everyone will need to take Valganciclovir. Your doctor will decide if you need this treatment. They will decide after testing you and your donated kidney for the virus.

If you need Valganciclovir, you will take it for 3 months after your transplant. The dose will depend on how well your new kidney is working. It may change depending on your blood results.

Side effects

You may have an upset stomach with sickness and diarrhoea.

Valganciclovir can lower some of your blood tests results. This includes tests that measure your white blood cells. Your doctor will monitor this in clinic.



Important: pregnancy and contraception

It is important that women of childbearing age use contraception while taking Valganciclovir. This is because it can cause birth defects during pregnancy and problems with the baby after birth.

Men must also make sure they use condoms during treatment and for 90 days after ending treatment. This is because Valganciclovir can also damage sperm.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 7777 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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