Galway: GAPP - Galway Antimicrobial Prescribing Policy / Guidelines (GAPP): Viral

Viral

Infection	Treatment	Comment
Herpes simplex - Cold sores	Aciclovir 5% cream every 4 hours (5 times daily)	Most effective when applied at the earliest possible
	for 5 to 10 days, starting at onset of symptoms	stage - at prodromal stage before vesicles appear.
		Systemic treatment is necessary if frequent
		recurrences or for extensive infections.
Herpes simplex –	Treatment:	If genital herpes refer to STI clinic.
Including	ValACIclovir PO	Higher dose or IV aciclovir may be required in
Mouth/lips	500mg every 12 hours (1g every 12 hours in immunocompromised)	severe infection/immunocompromised. Discuss with Microbiology or Infectious Diseases.
and	ininanocompromisea)	
Genital herpes	Initial: Treat for 5 to 10 days	
·	Recurrent: Treat for 3 to 5 days (5 to 10 days in immunocompromised)	
Herpes zoster (shingles)	ValACIclovir PO 1g every 8 hours for 7 days (in	Discuss with Microbiology or Infectious
	immunocompromised continue for 2 days after	Diseases if severe disease , i.e. ocular,
	crusting of lesions)	neurologic, disseminated disease or
		immunocompromised.

Refs:

1. BASHH UK National Guideline for the Management of Anogenital Herpes 2014

2. The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy App accessed online February 2024

3. HSE Antibiotic prescribing Genital Herpes accessed January 2024

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