

APPENDIX III: Selecting a Topical Antiviral Agent

In select cases, the choice between the two topical antiviral agents approved by the FDA for the treatment of HSV keratitis may be guided by the following:

Preferred Treatment: Ganciclovir

Ulcer that is refractory to trifluridine treatment.

Ulcers that require prolonged topical therapy (trifluridine treatment limited to 21 days).

Patients physically unable to apply drops every two hours while awake.

Children between the ages of 2–6 (trifluridine approved for children age 6 and older).

Preferred Treatment: Trifluridine

Contact lens wear (ganciclovir warning against contact lens use).

Ulcer that is refractory to ganciclovir treatment.

Lower cost.