

Drug Information Table

Folic acid analog – methotrexate (Trexall)

THERAPEUTIC USE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment of several types of cancer<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acute leukemias• Lymphomas• Choriocarcinoma (uterine cancer associated with pregnancy)• Cancer of the head, neck, and pelvis• Treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis; both disorders have an autoimmune component
ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bone marrow suppression (decreased platelets, RBCs and WBCs)• Oral and gastrointestinal ulceration• Liver damage• Pulmonary fibrosis
INTERVENTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor CBC, thrombocyte counts, Hgb, and Hct before, during, and after therapy (bone marrow suppression).• Monitor for fever frequently during treatment.• Colony-stimulating drugs, such as filgrastim, can be prescribed to minimize neutropenia.• Monitor for bleeding from common sites, such as gums.• Use measures to avoid bruising, such as applying prolonged pressure to puncture sites and using small gauge needles if injection is necessary, or if thrombocytopenia is present.• Monitor for oral and gastrointestinal ulcerations, including pain and blood in vomitus or stools.• Monitor liver function tests and observe for jaundice.• Monitor for respiratory distress and decreased oxygenation.
ADMINISTRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available in oral, IM, IV and a preservative-free intrathecal form.• For high-dose cancer therapy, give leucovorin, a reduced form of folic acid, as an antidote for severe bone marrow depression occurring with folic acid analogs.• Give doses at varied intervals, depending on type of cancer being treated.• Oral doses may be given with or without food.• IV form: incompatible with multiple other drugs in solution

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CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report fever, sore throat, easy bruising, and unusual fatigue to provider.• Use scrupulous handwashing techniques; restrict visitors who are ill.• Institute frequent oral care to prevent stomatitis (yeast superinfection in mouth).• Use a soft toothbrush and electric razor to prevent bleeding; take measures to prevent bruising.• Report oral ulcerations.• Report oral or abdominal pain.• Report blood in vomitus or stools.• Avoid ingesting alcohol.• Report yellowing of the skin and eyes immediately.• Report difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.• Contraception should be used during and immediately following therapy for both men and women, as prescribed by the healthcare provider.
CONTRAINDICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pregnancy risk – teratogenic• Liver insufficiency or hepatitis• Renal insufficiency
PRECAUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active bacterial or viral infections
INTERACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concurrent use of methotrexate and digoxin can reduce digoxin level.• Concurrent use of methotrexate and NSAIDs, salicylates, and sulfonamides can cause toxicity.• Alcohol use can increase risk of hepatotoxicity.• Taking folic acid changes client response to methotrexate