

# Drug Information Table

## Folic acid analog – methotrexate (Trexall)

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

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