

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

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