Leucovorin: Patient drug information

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(For additional information see "Leucovorin: Drug information" and see "Leucovorin: Pediatric drug information")

Brand Names: Canada   Lederle Leucovorin; Leucovorin Calcium Injection; Leucovorin Calcium Injection USP

What is this drug used for?

• It is used with methotrexate to avoid side effects.
• It may lower the side effects of some drugs.
• It is used with fluorouracil to help fight colorectal cancer.
• It is used to help with some kinds of anemia.
• It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

• If you have an allergy to leucovorin or any other part of this drug.
• If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
• If you have anemia caused by a lack of vitamin B₁₂.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

All products:
• Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
• Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
• If this drug is used with fluorouracil, side effects from fluorouracil may happen more often. Deaths from very bad bowel problems, diarrhea, and dehydration have happened in older people getting this drug with fluorouracil. Talk with the doctor.
• Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.
• Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

**Injection:**
• Some fluids used to mix this drug have benzyl alcohol. Do not give a product that has benzyl alcohol in it to a newborn or infant. It may cause very bad and sometimes deadly side effects. Talk with the doctor to see which fluids have benzyl alcohol.

### What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

### What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to your national health agency.

### How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

**Tablets:**
- Take with or without food. Take with food if it causes an upset stomach.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

**Injection:**
- It is given as a shot into a muscle or vein.

### What do I do if I miss a dose?

**Tablets:**
• If you miss a dose or throw up after taking a dose, call your doctor right away.

**Injection:**
• Call your doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

**Tablets:**
• Store at room temperature.
• Protect from light.
• Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

**Injection:**
• If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

**All products:**
• Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
• Check with your pharmacist about how to throw out unused drugs.

General drug facts

• If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
• Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
• Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
• Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
• Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
• If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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Topic 10795 Version 86.0