LEUCOVORIN-TEVA 10 mg/ml
CONCENTRATE FOR SOLUTION FOR INFUSION
folinic acid as the calcium salt

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because **it contains important information for you.**
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Leucovorin-Teva is and what it is used for

Leucovorin-Teva belongs to a group of drugs called antidotes. Antidotes prevent the damage caused by other substances.

Folinic acid is one of the B group of vitamins.

Leucovorin-Teva is used to reduce the side effects of other medicines (a group of medicines called folic acid antagonists). Examples of folic acid antagonists are:
- methotrexate (a medicine often used to treat cancer)
- trimetrexate (an antibiotic and anti-cancer medicine)
- trimethoprim (an antibiotic)
- pyrimethamine (a medicine often used to treat malaria)

It may also be used to treat an overdose of these medicines.

Leucovorin-Teva may also be used to increase the effectiveness of the anticancer medicine fluorouracil.

You must talk to a doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse.

2. What you need to know before you use Leucovorin-Teva

Leucovorin-Teva must not be injected intrathecally (into the spine).

Do NOT use Leucovorin-Teva:
- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to calcium folinate or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you have a type of anaemia caused by too little vitamin B12

Tell your doctor if either of the above applies to you before this medicine is used.

Warnings and Precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Leucovorin-Teva.

Use of Leucovorin-Teva with fluorouracil
You should not start to use this medicine together with fluorouracil if you have noticed that your medicine is causing problems to your stomach and gut.

Take special care with Leucovorin-Teva if:
• your kidneys do not work properly – you may need to take a higher dose or need to take this medicine for longer
• if you have epilepsy

Take special care with Leucovorin-Teva
If you are to receive Leucovorin-Teva and fluorouracil treatment at the same time take special care if:
• you have had radiotherapy
• you have stomach or bowel trouble
• you have an inflammation on the inside of your mouth
• you are elderly
• you feel very weak

Tell your doctor if the above applies to you before this medicine is used.

Special care is also needed if you are elderly and you are to receive Leucovorin-Teva and fluorouracil treatment at the same time.

Other medicines and Leucovorin-Teva
Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Special care is needed if you are taking/using other medicines as some could interact with Leucovorin-Teva, for example:
- calcium folinate may sometimes be given at the same time as a medicine known as a folic acid antagonist, examples are cotrimoxazole, methotrexate and pyrimethamine). When this happens the effect of the folic acid antagonist may be reduced or minimised altogether.
- fluorouracil (anti-cancer medicine) – the effectiveness and side effects of this medicine will be increased by calcium folinate
- medicines used to treat epilepsy (phenobarbitone, phenytoin, primidone or succinimides) – the effectiveness of these medicines may be reduced by calcium folinate. Your doctor may check blood levels of these medicines and change your dose to prevent increased convulsions (fits).
- DNA synthesis inhibitors (anti-cancer medicines such as hydroxycarbamide, cytarabine, mecaptopurine and thioguanine)
- The effectiveness of Leucovorin-Teva can be reduced by chloramphenicol (an antibiotic)

Your doctor will monitor how well your kidneys are working and will take regular blood tests to check this.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

It is unlikely that your doctor will ask you to take/use a folic acid antagonist or fluorouracil whilst you are pregnant or breast-feeding. However, if you have taken/used a folic acid antagonist whilst pregnant or breast-feeding, this medicine (calcium folinate) may be used to reduce its side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines
There is no evidence that Leucovorin- Teva has any effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

Leucovorin- Teva contains sodium.
5 ml vials:
This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per vial, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.
10 ml vials:
This medicine contains 30 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 1.5 % of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.
20 ml vials:
This medicine contains 60 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 3 % of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.
30 ml vials:
This medicine contains 90 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 4.5 % of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.
50 ml vials:
This medicine contains 150 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 7.5 % of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.

3. How to use Leucovorin-Teva

Leucovorin-Teva is given either into a vein (intravenously) as an injection or infusion, or into a muscle as an injection (intramuscular injection). Your medicine will be administered by a doctor or nurse.

Leucovorin-Teva 10 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is intended for single dose use only. Any unused solution should be discarded immediately after use.

If you are given an intravenous infusion, Leucovorin-Teva may be diluted with the recommended infusion fluids, sodium chloride or glucose solution, before administration. The sterile solution for injection should be visually inspected for clarity, particulate matter, discolouration and damage to the container before it is given to you. The solution should only be used if it is clear and the container is undamaged.

The dosage can vary from patient to patient. Your doctor will decide what dosage is best for you. Your dose and the way Leucovorin-Teva is administered will depend on the severity and type of condition you have, as well as your weight.

If you receive more Leucovorin-Teva than you should
As a doctor or nurse will be giving you your medicine, it is unlikely that you will receive an incorrect dose. Tell your doctor or nurse if you have any concerns about the amount of medicine that you receive.

If you stop receiving Leucovorin-Teva
When Leucovorin-Teva is used in combination with methotrexate and treatment is stopped abruptly, the side effects of methotrexate may re-occur. Therefore Leucovorin-Teva should not be stopped abruptly.

If you forget to use Leucovorin-Teva
Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
• severe allergic reaction - you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel you are going to faint. This is a serious side effect. You may need urgent medical attention.

Uncommon: **may affect up to 1 in 100 people**
- fever.

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people
- an increase in convulsion (fits) in patients with epilepsy.
- depression
- agitation
- problems with the digestive system
- difficulty sleeping (insomnia)

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
• stomach pain

Combination therapy with 5-fluorouracil only:
If you receive calcium folinate in combination with an anticancer medicine containing fluoropyrimidines, it is more likely that you experience the following side effects of this other medicine:

Very Common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people
- nausea
- vomiting
- severe diarrhoea
- drying out which may be due to diarrhoea
- inflammation of the lining of the intestine and mouth (life-threatening conditions have occurred)
- reduction in the number of blood cells (including life-threatening conditions).

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
- redness and swelling of the palms of the hands or the soles of the feet, which may cause the skin to peel (hand-foot syndrome).

Frequency not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)
- excess ammonia in the blood.

Tell your doctor if you experience diarrhoea or an inflammation of the lining of the mouth, as your doctor might wish to decrease the dose of fluorouracil until symptoms have fully disappeared.

Because diarrhoea may be a sign of toxicity to the stomach and gut, if you show these symptoms, you will be carefully monitored until the symptoms have disappeared completely. These symptoms may be the start of a rapid deterioration leading to death.
Your doctor may do tests to check for low levels of calcium in your blood.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance Website: www.hpra.ie;
By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Leucovorin-Teva

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Leucovorin-Teva is a clear yellow concentrate for solution for infusion. If the solution is cloudy or particles are visible the solution should be discarded.

Store in a refrigerator at 2-8°C. Once aseptically diluted, the solution must be used within 24 hours of preparation when stored in a refrigerator at 2-8°C. The solution must be used within 8 hours of preparation when stored at room temperature (below 25°C).

Keep the vial in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

Do not use Leucovorin-Teva after the expiry date that is stated on the outer packaging. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

6. Further information

What Leucovorin-Teva contains
- The active ingredient is calcium folinate.
- The other ingredients are sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, water for injections.

What Leucovorin-Teva looks like and contents of the pack
- Leucovorin-Teva is a sterile concentrate for solution for infusion, containing folinic acid 10 mg/ml (as calcium folinate) and is available as an injection in vials of 5 ml (50 mg/vial), 10 ml (100 mg/vial), 20 ml (200 mg/vial), 30 ml (300 mg/vial) and 50 ml (500 mg/vial) capacities. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
Teva Pharma B.V.
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This leaflet was last revised in September 2021