

Medication Information

Methotrexate **(Meth – o – trex – ate)**

Other names for this medication

Amethopterin

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication is used in conditions of your immune system and reduces inflammation. It is used to help many problems, such as:

- treat rheumatoid arthritis symptoms such as swelling, stiffness and joint pain. This medication slows down the disease and protects the joints from further damage.
- reduce inflammation in Crohn's disease and may help to decrease or stop the use of steroid medications such as prednisone.
- treat psoriasis.
- this medication is also used to treat some types of cancer.

It may take 8 to 12 weeks to get the full effect of this medication.

Talk to your health care provider if you or your partner take this medication and are planning to get pregnant or suspect you are pregnant. This medication may harm your baby. Take to your health care provider about birth control.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your health care provider. If you take this medication once a week, it should be taken on the same time each week. If you take this medication once a day, take it at the same time each day.

If you miss your weekly dose by less than 24 hours, take it as soon as you remember. Contact your health care provider if you miss it by more than one day. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

To avoid stomach upset, take this medication with a meal or snack.

It is important that you see your health care provider regularly while taking this medication. You will need to have blood tests done while taking this medication.

Avoid drinking alcohol such as beer, wine or liquor while taking Methotrexate as it can damage the liver.

Due to increased risk of infection, check with your health care provider before having any vaccinations, flu shots or dental work.

Do not take ASA (aspirin, acetylsalicylic acid) without your health care provider's approval. Use acetaminophen (Tylenol) for headache, fever or minor pain relief.

While taking this medication you may notice

- loss of appetite
- diarrhea
- nausea or vomiting
- sores in mouth or lips for more than a week

Talk to your health care provider if you are having any of these effects. Your health care provider may want you to take a vitamin called Folic Acid to help.

Avoid contact with anyone suffering from an infection that you can catch such as chickenpox or influenza.

While taking this medication you may also notice

- drowsiness
- pale skin
- acne
- sensitivity to sunlight
- thinning hair

If your skin becomes more sensitive to sunlight, avoid direct sunlight. While in the sun, wear sunblock and sunglasses that block ultraviolet (UV) light, a hat and clothing that covers the skin.

Contact your health care provider if you notice

- dry, hacking cough
- trouble breathing
- severe stomach pain
- yellow eyes, yellow skin, dark urine
- signs of infection such as fever, chills, sore throat
- signs of bleeding such as easy bruising, nosebleeds, black or bloody stools, red urine