Leucovorin Rescue

How drug is given: by vein (IV) or by mouth (pills or liquid)

Purpose: To decrease the side effects of methotrexate

Possible side effects

1. Nausea and vomiting may occur if leucovorin is given in higher doses. If nausea occurs, you should take drugs to help with this 30 minutes before taking the leucovorin. Please note: if you cannot take the leucovorin because of nausea or vomiting, you must call your doctor or nurse right away.

2. Leucovorin, as with many drugs, may cause an allergic reaction. If you have a rash, facial flushing, or itching during or after you get this drug, please tell your doctor or nurse right away.

Points to remember

• You will start taking leucovorin the day after you are given methotrexate.

• This drug must be taken on schedule, even if it means setting your alarm clock to wake up at the time a dose is due.

• Look at the leucovorin schedule that was given to you by your nurse. Cross off each dose as you take it. If for any reason you cannot take your leucovorin, call right away.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.