



Pralatrexate (Folotyn®) (“*pral-a-TREX-ate*”)

How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to stop the growth of cancer cells in T-cell lymphoma

Things that may occur early in treatment

1. Some patients may have mild nausea. You may be given medicine to help with this.
2. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and get more fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®), and/or laxatives, such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your cancer care team. Do not use bulk-forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without first talking with your cancer care team.
3. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, **call your cancer care team.**
4. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle and/or joint aches, are common. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your cancer care team know if acetaminophen (Tylenol) does not help, because other medications may be prescribed.

Things that may occur later in treatment

1. You may get mouth sores and/or a sore throat 7 to 10 days after this drug is given. Use a soft-bristle toothbrush for brushing your teeth. You may have a burning feeling and redness inside the mouth or on the lips. Use a **baking soda mouth rinse** 4 or 5 times a day.

Mouth Rinse Recipe:

Mix: 1 tsp **salt or baking soda** with 8 oz. glass of **water**

Other mouth rinses may be ordered by your doctor. Do not use mouth washes that have alcohol in them because they will dry out the mouth. If you cannot eat or swallow because of this, let your cancer care team know. Check with your doctor before having any dental work done.

2. Your body may not be able to rid of extra fluid. This is called edema. You may notice some swelling in your arms and legs.

3. Some patients may feel weak or tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise may also help you maintain your energy. (You may also be less interested in doing your usual activities.) Talk with your cancer care team if this occurs.
4. Your blood cell counts may drop. This is known as bone marrow suppression. This includes a decrease in your:
 - Red blood cells, which carry oxygen in your body to help give you energy
 - White blood cells, which fight infection in your body
 - Platelets, which help clot the blood to stop bleeding

This may happen 7 to 14 days after the drug is given. After that, blood counts should return to normal. If you have a **fever of 100.5°F (39°C) or higher**, chills, a cough, or any bleeding problems, **call your cancer care team right away**.

Things that may occur after treatment ends (even months to years later)

1. Fertility:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could harm an unborn baby.
 - Men may become sterile and may want to think about sperm banking prior to chemotherapy.
 - For women, your period (menstrual cycle) may not be regular for a while or may stop completely and you may not be able to get pregnant.

If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your doctor or nurse.

The information in this document includes some but not necessarily all of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed 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 are taking other medications. Please speak 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.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY: