

# CALCIUM FOLINATE INJECTION

**Other names:** Leucovorin Calcium®, citrovorum factor, folinic acid®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medication

Calcium folinate is a medicine that is used with anti-cancer drugs to treat some kinds of cancer. It is used to "rescue" normal cells (but not cancer cells) from the effects of an anti-cancer medicine called methotrexate. This helps prevent harmful side effects.

Calcium folinate is also used to increase the anti-cancer effects of a medicine called fluorouracil.

Calcium folinate is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein or muscle.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or allergic reaction to calcium folinate before receiving treatment with calcium folinate.

Tell other doctors or dentists that you are being treated with calcium folinate before you receive any treatment from them.

## Other medication

Other medicines may interact with calcium folinate. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicines.

Alcohol (in small amounts) does not appear to effect the safety or usefulness of calcium folinate.

## Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
<b>Pain or tenderness</b> may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply warm compresses or soak in warm water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
<b>Nausea</b> does not occur with calcium folinate.	
<b>Hair loss</b> does not occur with calcium folinate.	

**See your doctor or get emergency help immediately if you have:**

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling or breathing problems.
- **Seizures (fits) or loss of consciousness.**

**Check with your doctor if any of the following continue or bother you:**

- Redness, swelling, pain or sores where the needle was placed.
- Skin rash or itching.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist**