UPMC | HILLMAN CANCER CENTER

Leucovorin Calcium

About This Medicine

LEUCOVORIN (loo koe VOR in) prevents side effects from certain medications, such as methotrexate. It works by increasing folate levels. This helps protect healthy cells in your body. It may also be used to treat anemia caused by low levels of folate. It can also be used with fluorouracil, a type of chemotherapy, to treat colorectal cancer. It works by increasing the effects of fluorouracil in the body. Leucovorin is given in the vein (IV) or by mouth (orally).

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your care team if you have questions.

Possible Side Effects

- Itching

Note: *All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your care team.*

Warnings and Precautions

- Allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, are rare but may happen in some patients. Signs of allergic reaction to this medicine may be swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, do not take another dose of this medicine. You should get urgent medical treatment.**

Note*: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your care team.*

How to Take Your Medicine

- **Oral only**: Take the medicine as prescribed by your care team.
- **Missed dose**: If you vomit or miss a dose, contact your care team *immediately* for further instructions. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

ELSEVIER

User/Authorized User acknowledges that the ClinicalPath Portal is intended to be utilized as an information management tool only, and that Elsevier has not represented the ClinicalPath Portal as having the ability to diagnose disease, prescribe treatment, or perform any other tasks that constitute the practice of providing medical care. The clinical information contained within the ClinicalPath Portal is intended as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the knowledge, expertise, skill, and judgment of physicians, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals involved with patient care at User/Authorized User facilities.
CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION.

- Overdosage: If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.
- **Storage**: Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Protect from light and moisture. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Discuss with your care team how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- To help with itching, moisturize your skin several times a day.

Food and Medicine Interactions

- There are no known interactions of leucovorin with food.
- Check with your care team about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known medicine interactions with leucovorin. Also, check with your care team or before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

When to Call Your Care Team

Call your care team if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Itching that is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of allergic reaction: swelling of the face, feeling like your tongue or throat are swelling, trouble breathing, rash, itching, fever, chills, feeling dizzy, and/or feeling that your heart is beating in a fast or not normal way. **If this happens, call 911 for emergency care.**

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning**: Talk with your care team if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while taking this medicine. Tell your care team right away if you think you might be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning**: Talk with your care team about breastfeeding during treatment. You may need to stop breastfeeding.

Reviewed July 2025

ELSEVIER

User/Authorized User acknowledges that the ClinicalPath Portal is intended to be utilized as an information management tool only, and that Elsevier has not represented the ClinicalPath Portal as having the ability to diagnose disease, prescribe treatment, or perform any other tasks that constitute the practice of providing medical care. The clinical information contained within the ClinicalPath Portal is intended as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the knowledge, expertise, skill, and judgment of physicians, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals involved with patient care at User/Authorized User facilities.
CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY. NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION.