Methotrexate (injection)

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CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK
A CH.I.L.D. Foundation Initiative

What this medication is used for

Widely used for children with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

How this medication works

Methotrexate is a medication that reduces inflammation in the immune system.

How to use this medication

Available as a subcutaneous/intramuscular injection.

-Generally given once weekly.

-Folic acid (vitamin B9) should be supplemented.

-Ondansetron may be used to help prevent/reduce side effects.

-Methotrexate should not be taken with sulfa antibiotics such as co-trimoxazole (Septra) or trimethoprim. Always check with your health care team before starting new medication.



Where treatment is administered

Fill your prescription at your pharmacy.

Vaccines

✗ Live vaccines - Not safe

✓ Inactivated vaccines - Safe

PLEASE NOTE: This content is for educational purposes only and does not replace professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term, or it may be used for a defined period with other long-term medication.

Special tests done prior to starting

-Tests to screen for infections including tuberculosis and immunity to various viruses.
-Baseline liver tests.

Monitoring during treatment

-Regular blood tests, stool tests, endoscopy and/or other imaging will be done to monitor for response and side effects to medications.

-Regular review of sexual activity/birth control to avoid pregnancy while on this medication.

Side Effects

Nausea, loss of appetite, feeling unwell or tired for 24-48 hours after taking your dose.

-Headaches and irritability

-Medications that affect the immune system may be associated with developing infections and very rarely cancer.

-Inflammation of the liver and lungs may occur

-Decreased bone marrow function may occur

-Hair loss may occur

-Can cause birth defects if used during pregnancy
-Can affect male fertility

When I should call my doctor

Please call if:
-You want to or have already stopped the medicine
-If you are concerned about any side effects

Other reasons to call your doctor:
-If you have a fever or think you have an infection
-If you become pregnant

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