Methotrexate (tablet)

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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.

-Often combined with another IBD treatment in order to improve its effect, namely infliximab or adalimumab.

How this medication works

Methotrexate impacts the immune system to reduce inflammation.

How to use this medication

Available as a tablet

-Generally given once weekly at low dose.

-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

How long to use this medication

This medication will be used to get your IBD under control and keep it under control long-term. Other medications may be used with methotrexate.

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.

Side Effects

-Nausea, 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

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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