



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Alimta[®]

Generic name: Pemetrexed

Drug type: Alimta is an anti-cancer/cytotoxic chemotherapy drug.

How Alimta is given:

- Alimta is given as an infusion into the vein (intravenous, IV).
- Patients treated with Alimta will usually require folic acid and vitamin B12 supplementation to reduce treatment related side effects.

Side effects of Alimta:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Alimta:

- You will not get all of the side effects mentioned below.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after therapy is complete.
- Side effects are quite manageable. There are many options to minimize or prevent them.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Alimta:

- Low white blood cell count
- Low red blood cell count
- Fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation
- Poor appetite
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain

These are less common side effects of patients receiving Alimta:

- Low platelet count
- Increase in blood test creatinine
- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms: Fever, chills, generalized aches and pains, headache, poor appetite.
- Mouth sores
- Numbness or tingling of hands or feet
- Depression
- Rash, skin irritation

Your fertility, meaning your ability to conceive or father a child, may be affected by Alimta. Please discuss this issue with your health care provider.

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not an emergency. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medication)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period).
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stool or blood in your stools
- Blood in the urine
- Pain or burning with urination
- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities).
- Constipation unrelieved by laxative use
- Signs of infection such as redness or swelling, pain on swallowing, coughing up mucous, or painful urination
- Unable to eat or drink for 24 hours or have signs of dehydration: tiredness, thirst, dry mouth, dark and decrease amount of urine, or dizziness
- Depressed (interfering with your ability to carry on your regular activities)

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.