



For the Patient: GIFUINF

Other Names: Palliative chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using Infusional Fluorouracil

GI = GastroIntestinal

FU = FluoroUracil

INF = INFusional

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What are these drugs used for?

- Fluorouracil (also known as 5FU) is a drug given to treat cancer of the colon or rectum. It is given directly into the vein, or intravenously (IV).

How do these drugs work?

- Fluorouracil works by interfering with dividing cells and preventing an increase in the number of cancer cells.

INTENDED BENEFITS

- This therapy is being given to destroy and/or limit the growth of cancer cells in your body. This treatment may improve your current symptoms, and delay the onset of new symptoms.
- It may take several treatments before your doctor can judge whether or not this treatment is helping.

TREATMENT SUMMARY

How are these drugs given?

- You will receive one intravenous (IV) chemotherapy drug called Fluorouracil or 5FU. The 5FU is given over 48 hours, or 2 days, using a disposable infusion device called an “infusor” or “baby bottle”. The infusor delivers the 5FU slowly and continuously to your body over the 48 hour time period.
- The infusor is connected to your veins by either a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC Line) or a PORT-A-CATH®. If using a PICC line, this is inserted in your upper arm. If using a PORT-A-CATH®, this is inserted under the skin of the chest using local freezing. The insertion would be done several days before your treatment starts and would be removed once the treatment program is finished.
- The chemotherapy nurse will connect the infusor to your IV site at the clinic and then you can go home while your treatment is delivered over the 2 days. You may return to the clinic after 2 days for the nurse to disconnect the infusor, or you will be instructed how to disconnect yourself at home. Some people may be instructed to go to their local hospital to be disconnected, or may have a home care nurse provide this service, if available. You will then have a 5 day rest period.
- The 5FU treatment is repeated every 7 days, for up to 8 weeks. Treatment may be changed depending on how the drug affects you. If you are responding well to the drug, you may be continued on treatment, or retreated later if your cancer symptoms recur.
- Your treatment will probably take about 30 minutes. This includes a dressing change if you have a PICC line. If you have a PORT-A-CATH®, a dressing change is not needed, so your treatment will take less time. Your first treatment will probably take longer as the nurse will review information on the infusor and chemotherapy drug with you.

The calendar below outlines your overall treatment plan.

DATE	TREATMENT PLAN
	Week 1: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 2: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 3: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 4: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 5: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 6: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 7: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest
	Week 8: 5FU infusion x 48 hours (2 days) followed by 5 day rest

What will happen when I get my drugs?

- Blood tests will be done every 2nd week, on or before the day of treatment. The dose and timing of your chemotherapy may be changed based on blood counts and/or side effects.

Side Effects

- The doctor will review the risks of treatment and possible side effects with you before starting treatment.
- The chemotherapy nurse will review how to care for the infusor and possible side effects of fluorouracil with you before starting treatment.
- Unexpected and unlikely side effects can occur with any drug treatment. Please refer to the patient information handout titled ***“For the Patient: fluorouracil”*** for a complete list of possible side effects and their management.

Medication Interactions

- Other drugs such as phenytoin (DILANTIN®) and warfarin (COUMADIN®) may **interact** with fluorouracil. Tell your doctor if you are taking this or any other drugs as you may need extra blood tests or your dose may need to be changed. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new drugs. Please refer to “***For the Patient: fluorouracil***”.

If you experience symptoms or changes in your body that are not in “*For the Patient: fluorouracil*” but worry you, or in any symptoms are severe, contact:
_____ at telephone number: _____