



BC Cancer Agency

For the Patient: Leucovorin

Other names: calcium folinate, citrovorum factor, folinic acid, LEDERLE LEUCOVORIN®, 5-formyl tetrahydrofolate

- Leucovorin (loo-koe-VOR-in) is a drug that is used with anticancer drugs to treat some kinds of cancer. It is used to “rescue” normal cells (but not cancer cells) from the effects of an anti-cancer drug called methotrexate. This helps to prevent harmful side effects. Leucovorin is also used to increase the anti-cancer effects of a drug called fluorouracil. It is a clear liquid that is injected into a vein.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had an unusual or **allergic reaction** to leucovorin before taking leucovorin.
- Other drugs may **interact** with leucovorin. Tell your doctor if you are taking 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.
- The **drinking of alcohol** (in small amounts) does not appear to affect the safety or usefulness of leucovorin.

Side effects are listed in the following table in the order in which they may occur. Tips to help manage the side effects are included.

SIDE EFFECTS	MANAGEMENT
Pain or tenderness may occur where the needle was placed.	Apply cool compresses or soak in cool water for 15-20 minutes several times a day.
Nausea does not occur with leucovorin.	
Hair loss does not occur with leucovorin.	

SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GET EMERGENCY HELP IMMEDIATELY IF YOU HAVE:

- Signs of an **allergic reaction** (rare) soon after a treatment including dizziness, fast heart beat, face swelling, or breathing problems.
- **Seizures** or **loss of consciousness**.

CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONTINUE OR BOTHER YOU:

- Redness, swelling, pain, or sores where the needle was placed.
- Skin rash or itching.

