

Folina Tablets 15mg

Calcium Folate 16.21mg (equivalent to Folinic Acid 15.0 mg)

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What Folina Tablets 15mg is used for

Calcium folinate is indicated:

- to diminish the toxicity and counteract the action of folic acid antagonist such as methotrexate in cytotoxic therapy and overdose in adults and children. In cytotoxic therapy, this procedure is commonly known as 'Calcium folinate rescue'.
- In combination with 5- fluorouracil for the treatment of colorectal carcinoma.

How Folina Tablets 15mg works

Folate is a derivative of tetrahydrofolic acid, the reduced form of folic acid, which is involved as a cofactor for 1-carbon transfer reactions in the biosynthesis of purine and pyrimidines of nucleic acids. Impairment of thymidylate synthesis in patients with folic acid deficiency is thought to account for the defective DNA synthesis that leads to megaloblast formation and megaloblastic and macrocytic anemias. Because of its ready conversion to other tetrahydrofolic acid derivatives, Folate is a potent antidote for both hematopoietic and reticuloendothelial toxic effects of folic acid antagonists, (e.g. Methotrexate, Pyrimethamine, Trimethoprim). It is postulated that in some cancers, Folate enters and "rescues" normal cells from the toxic effects of folic acid antagonists, in preference to tumour cells, because of a difference in membrane transport mechanisms; this principle is the basis of high-dose Methotrexate therapy with "Folate rescue".

Before you use Folina Tablets 15mg

- When you must not use it

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses of at least 50 times the human dose.

These studies have revealed no evidence of harm to the foetus due to Calcium Folate. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal studies are not always predictive of human response, Calcium Folate should only be used in pregnant women if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the foetus.

Since it is not known if Folate is distributed into milk, the drug should be used with caution in nursing women.

- Before you start use it

Calcium Folate should only be used with methotrexate or 5-FU under the direct supervision of a clinician experienced in the use of cancer chemotherapeutic agents.

In the treatment of inadvertent overdosage of a folic acid antagonist, folinate should be administered as soon as possible; if a period exceeding 4 hours intervenes, the treatment may not be effective.

In general, Calcium Folate should not be given simultaneously with folic acid antagonists, e.g. methotrexate, to abort clinical toxicity as the therapeutic effect of the antagonist may be nullified. However, Calcium Folate given concurrently with folate antagonists, such as pyrimethamine and trimethoprim does not inhibit their antibacterial activity.

Parenteral administration of folinate is preferable to oral dosing following chemotherapy with folic acid antagonists if there is a possibility that the patient may vomit and not absorb the folinate.

Measures to ensure the prompt excretion of methotrexate are important as part of Calcium Folate Rescue Therapy. These measures include:

- 1) Alkalinisation of urine so that the urinary pH is greater than 7.0 before methotrexate infusion (to increase solubility of methotrexate

and its metabolites)

- 2) Maintenance of urine output of 1800-2000 cc/m²/24 hr by increased oral or intravenous fluids on days 2, 3 and 4 following methotrexate therapy.
- 3) Plasma methotrexate concentration, BUN and creatinine should be measured on days 2, 3 and 4. These measures must be continued until the plasma methotrexate level is less than 10⁻⁷ molar (0.1µM).

- Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Folates given in large amounts may counteract the antiepileptic effect of phenobarbitone, phenytoin and primidone and increase the frequency of seizures in susceptible patients. Caution is required during concurrent administration of Calcium Folate with fluoropyrimidine as this has been associated with seizures and syncope.

How to use Folina Tablets 15mg

- How much to use

Calcium Folate Rescue

Calcium Folate may be used in conjunction with folic acid antagonists, e.g. methotrexate, to reduce their systemic toxicity. It is given 12 to 24 hours after the antineoplastic drug. Doses of up to 120mg may be given over 12 to 24 hours by intramuscular injection or intravenous injection or infusion, followed by 12 to 15mg intramuscularly, or 15mg orally, every 6 hours for the next 48 hours. With lower doses of methotrexate, folinate 15mg orally every 6 hours for 48 to 72 hours may be sufficient.

Treatment should be accompanied by alkalinisation of urine with maintenance of urinary output at 2000 ml/m²/24 hours and should be continued until plasma methotrexate is less than 10⁻⁷ molar.

Treatment of Megaloblastic Anaemia

The dose should not exceed 1mg daily given intramuscularly. When given Calcium Folate Tablet (15mg) daily. Children up to 12 years: 0.25 mg/kg/day. Normal adult oral dosage:

10 – 20 mg daily. Treatment of Overdosage of Folic Acid Antagonists In cases of overdosage of folic acid antagonists, Calcium Folate may be administered by intravenous infusion in doses of up to 75mg within 12 hours, followed by 12mg intramuscularly every 6 hours for 4 doses. In general, where overdosage is suspected, the dose of Calcium Folate should be equal to or greater than the offending dose of the folic acid antagonist administered, and should be given as soon as possible; preferably within the first hour and certainly within 4 hours after which it may not be effective. Although Calcium Folate may also be available as a solution for injection, Calcium Folate should not be administered intrathecally - <u>When to use it</u> Use as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. - <u>How long to use it</u> Continue taking Folina Tablets 15mg for as long as your doctor recommends. - <u>If you forget to use it</u> Consult your doctor or pharmacist on what you should do if you forget to use it. - <u>If you use too much (overdose)</u> Contact your doctor immediately. Therapy should be discontinued. While you are using it - <u>Things you must do</u> Take your medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists treating you that you are taking Folina Tablets 15mg. Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking this medication. - <u>Things you must not do</u> Do not stop taking the medicine unless advised by your doctor. Do not take any new medicines without consulting your doctor. Do not give Folina Tablets 15mg to anyone else, even if they have the	same symptoms or condition as you. Side effects Adverse reactions are rare but occasional allergic reactions including anaphylactoid reactions and urticaria have been reported; pyrexia has occurred after parenteral administration. Seizures and/or syncope have been reported rarely in cancer patients receiving folinate, usually in association with fluoropyrimidine administration and most commonly in those with CNS metastases or other predisposing factors; however, a causal relationship has not been established. Visit your doctor or pharmacist immediately if you experience any side effects after taking this medicine. You may report any side effects or adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by visiting the website npra.gov.my [Consumers→ Reporting Side Effects to Medicines (ConSERF) or Vaccines (AEFI)] Storage and Disposal of Folina Tablets 15mg - <u>Storage</u> Keep out of the reach and sight of children. Store below 30°C. - <u>Disposal</u> Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment. Product Description - <u>What it looks like</u> Pale yellow round tablets, convex on both sides and scored on one side. - <u>Ingredients</u> - Active ingredient Calcium Folate 16.21mg (equivalent to Folinic Acid 15.0 mg) - Inactive ingredients Lactose Spray-Dried Microcrystalline Cellulose (pH105) Pregelatinized Starch Sodium Starch Glycolate Magnesium Stearate - <u>MAL number:</u>	MAL15085066XZ Manufacturer TTY Biopharm Company Limited Liudu Factory. No.5, Gongjian W. Rd., Qidu District, Keelung , Taiwan, R.O.C. Product Registration Holder Pharm-D Sdn. Bhd. No 8B, Jalan 1/137C, Bedford Business Park, Off Jalan Kelang Lama, 58000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Date of revision 20/4/2022
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