

Folinic acid is used to treat methotrexate toxicity and as an adjunct therapy in methanol poisoning

Indications

Methotrexate toxicity

- See methotrexate guideline for indications

Methanol poisoning

- Assists metabolism of formate

Contraindications:

- Known hypersensitivity

Adverse effects:

- ↑Ca can occur with rapid IV administration (rare)

Mechanism of action (in methotrexate toxicity)

- Interferes with GI absorption and transport of methotrexate
- Provides reduced folate directly, bypassing dihydrofolate reductase blocked by methotrexate

Presentation

- Calcium folinate ampoules 50mg/5mL
- Folinic acid tablets 15 mg

Dose and Administration

Oral absorption is saturatable (maximum amount absorbed approximately 15 mg PO)

Methotrexate toxicity

- Give 15 mg every 6 hours (*see methotrexate guideline for route and duration*)
- Some patients require the initial dose given **BOTH** orally and intravenously (*see methotrexate guideline*)

Methanol poisoning

- 1-2 mg/kg IV every 4-6 hours

Therapeutic Endpoint

- *Methotrexate toxicity* - *see methotrexate guideline*
- *Methanol poisoning* – *administer for 48 hours*

Pregnancy:

- Folinic acid is considered safe in pregnancy