

**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 saturable (maximum amount absorbed approximately 15 mg PO)

### *Methotrexate toxicity*

- Give 15 mg every 6 hours (see *Methotrexate guideline* for route and duration)
- In some cases, **BOTH** folinic acid should be administered initially both orally and intravenously (see *Methotrexate guideline*)

### *Methanol poisoning*

- 1-2 mg/kg IV QID

## Therapeutic Endpoint

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

## Pregnancy:

- Folinic acid is considered safe in pregnancy