PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Gemcitabine 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion
Gemcitabine 1000 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion
Gemcitabine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start receiving this medicine.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. WHAT GEMCITABINE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Gemcitabine belongs to a group of medicines called "cytotoxics". These medicines kill dividing cells, including cancer cells.

Gemcitabine may be given alone or in combination with other anti-cancer medicines, depending on the type of cancer.

Gemcitabine is used in the treatment of the following types of cancer:
- non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), alone or together with cisplatin.
- pancreatic cancer.
- breast cancer, together with paclitaxel.
- ovarian cancer, together with carboplatin.
- bladder cancer, together with cisplatin.

2. BEFORE YOU ARE GIVEN GEMCITABINE

You should not be given Gemcitabine if you:
- are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to **gemcitabine** or any of the **other ingredients** of Gemcitabine .
- are **breast-feeding**.

Take special care with Gemcitabine :
Before the first infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to check if your kidneys and liver are working properly. Before each infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to check if you have enough blood cells to receive Gemcitabine .

Your doctor may decide to change the dose or delay treating you depending on your general condition and if your blood cell counts are too low.
Periodically you will have samples of your blood taken to check if your kidneys and liver are working properly.

Please tell your doctor if you:
- have, or have previously had **liver disease**, **heart disease** or **vascular disease**.
- have recently had, or are going to have **radiotherapy**.
- have been **vaccinated recently**
- develop **breathing difficulties** or feel very **weak** and are very **pale** (may be a sign of kidney failure).

Men are advised not to father a child during and up to 6 months following treatment with Gemcitabine . If you would like to father a child during the treatment or in the 6 months following treatment, seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist. You may want to seek counseling on sperm storage before starting your therapy.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor or hospital pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including vaccinations and medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant, or thinking about becoming pregnant, tell your doctor. The use of Gemcitabine should be avoided during pregnancy. Your doctor will discuss with you the potential risk of taking Gemcitabine during pregnancy.

If you are breast-feeding, tell your doctor.
You must discontinue breast-feeding during Gemcitabine treatment.

Ask your doctor for advice before using any medicine.

Driving and using machines
Gemcitabine may make you feel sleepy, particularly if you have consumed any alcohol. Do not drive a car or use machinery until you are sure that Gemcitabine treatment has not made you feel sleepy.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Gemcitabine
Gemcitabine contains 3.5 mg (< 1 mmol) of sodium in each 200 mg vial and 17.5 mg (< 1 mmol) sodium in each 1000 mg vial. To be taken into consideration by patients on a **controlled sodium diet**.

3. HOW GEMCITABINE IS GIVEN

The usual dose of Gemcitabine is 1000-1250 mg for every square metre of your body's surface area. Your height and weight are measured to work out the surface area of your body. Your doctor will use this body surface area to work out the right dose for you. This dosage may be adjusted, or treatment may be delayed depending on your blood cell counts and on your general condition.

How frequently you receive your Gemcitabine infusion depends on the type of cancer that you are being treated for.

A hospital pharmacist or doctor will have dissolved the Gemcitabine powder before it is given to you.

You will always receive Gemcitabine by infusion into one of your veins. The infusion will last approximately 30 minutes.

If you have further questions on the use of this product ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Gemcitabine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Frequencies of the observed side effects are defined as:

- very common: affects more than 1 user in 10
- common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100
- uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000
- rare: affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000
- very rare: affects less than 1 user in 10,000
- not known: frequency can't be estimated from the available data

You must contact your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- **Fever or infection** (common): if you have a temperature of 38ºC or greater, sweating or other signs of infection (since you might have less white blood cells than normal which is very common).
- **Irregular heart rate** (arrhythmia) (frequency not known).
- **Pain, redness, swelling or sores in your mouth** (common).
- **Allergic reactions**: if you develop **skin rash** (very common) / **itching** (common), or **fever** (very common).
- **Tiredness, feeling faint, becoming easily breathless** or if you look **pale** (since you might have less haemoglobin than normal which is very common).
- **Bleeding from the gums, nose or mouth** or any bleeding that would not stop, **reddish or pinkish urine, unexpected bruising** (since you might have less platelets than normal which is very common).

- **Difficulty breathing** (it is very common to have mild breathing difficulty soon after the Gemcitabine infusion which soon passes, however uncommonly or rarely there can be more severe lung problems)

Side effects with Gemcitabine may include:

Very common side effects
Low red blood cells level (anaemia)
Low white blood cells
Low platelet count
Difficulty breathing
Being sick (vomiting)
Feeling sick (nausea)
Skin rash- allergic skin rash, frequently itchy
Hair loss
Liver problems: found through abnormal blood test results
Blood in urine
Abnormal urine tests: protein in urine
Flu-like symptoms including fever
Swelling of ankles, fingers, feet, face (Oedema)

Common side effects
Fever accompanied by low white blood cell count (febrile neutropaenia)
Poor appetite (anorexia)
Headache
Difficulty sleeping (insomnia)
Sleepiness
Cough
Runny nose
Constipation
Diarrhoea
Pain, redness, swelling or sores in the mouth
Itching
Sweating
Muscle pain
Back pain
Fever
Weakness
Chills

Uncommon side effects
Scarring of the air sacs of the lung (Interstitial pneumonitis)
Wheezing (Spasm of the airways)
Abnormal chest X ray/scan (scarring of the lungs)

Rare side effects
Heart attack (myocardial infarction)
Low blood pressure
Skin scaling, ulceration or blister formation
Injection site reactions

Very rare side effects
Increased platelet count
Anaphylactic reaction (severe hypersensitivity/ allergic reaction)
Sloughing of skin and severe skin blistering

Side effects with frequency not known
Irregular heart beat (arrhythmia)
Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (severe lung inflammation causing respiratory failure)
A skin rash like severe sunburn (radiation recall) which can occur on skin that has previously been exposed to radiotherapy.
Fluid in the lungs
Radiation toxicity- scarring of the air sacs of the lung associated with radiation therapy
Inflammation of the lining of the large bowel, caused by reduced blood supply (Ischaemic colitis)
Heart failure
Kidney failure
Gangrene of fingers or toes
Serious liver damage, including liver failure
Stroke

You might have any of these symptoms and/or conditions. You must tell your doctor as soon as possible when you start experiencing any of these side effects.

If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your doctor.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

5. HOW TO STORE GEMCITABINE

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not use after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after <EXP>. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage condition

Reconstituted solution : Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 25°C. From a microbiological point to view, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 25°C.
Solutions of reconstituted gemcitabine should not be refrigerated, as crystallisation may occur.

Do not use Gemcitabine if you notice any particulate matter and / or discolouration.

This medicine is for single use only; any unused solution should be discarded under the local requirements.
Remnants of the medicinal product as well as all materials that have been used for reconstitution, for dilution and administration must be destroyed according to hospital standard procedures applicable to cytotoxic agents with due regard to current laws related to the disposal of hazardous waste.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Gemcitabine contains
The active substance is gemcitabine. Each vial contains 200 mg or 1000 mg of gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
The other ingredients are mannitol (E421), sodium acetate, hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment) and sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment).

What Gemcitabine looks like and contents of the pack
Gemcitabine is a white powder or plug, for solution for infusion in a tubular glass vial, with a dark grey rubber stopper and sealed with a light yellow flip off aluminium seal.
Each vial contains 200 mg or 1000 mg of gemcitabine. Each carton pack of Gemcitabine contains 1 vial.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
Marketing Authorisation Holder
Generics [UK] Limited
Station close, Potters Bar,
Hertfordshire EN6 1TL
United Kingdom

Manufacturer
Strides Arcolab Polska Sp.z.o.o.
10, Daniszewska Str
03-230 Warsaw
Poland

This medicinal product is authorized in the Member States of the EEA under following names:

Name Member State	Name of the medicinal product
The Netherlands (RMS)	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml poeder voor oplossing voor infusie
Austria	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml Pulver zur Herstellung einer Infusionslösung
Belgium	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml poeder voor oplossing voor infusie
Bulgaria	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml Прах за инфузионен разтвор
Cyprus	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml κόνις για διάλυμα προς έγχυση
Czech Republic	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml prášek pro přípravu infuzního roztoku
Germany	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml Pulver zur Herstellung einer Infusionslösung
Denmark	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml pulver til infusionsvæske, opløsning
Estonia	Gemcitabin Strides
Greece	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml κόνις για διάλυμα προς έγχυση
Finland	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml infuusiokuiva-aine, liuosta varten
France	Gemcitabine Arcolab International 38 mg/ml poudre pour solution pour perfusion
Hungary	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml por oldatos infúzióhoz
Ireland	Gemcitabine 200 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion Gemcitabine 1000 mg Powder for Solution for Infusion
Iceland	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml innrennslisstofn, lausn
Italy	Gemcitabina Strides
Latvia	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml pulveris infuziju šķīduma pagatavošanai
Lithuania	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml milteliai infuziniam tirpalui
Luxemburg	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml poudre pour solution pour perfusion
Malta	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml trab għal soluzzjoni għall-infużjoni
Norway	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml pulver til infusjonsvæske, oppløsning
Poland	Gemcitabine
Portugal	Gemcitabina Strides

Romania	Gemcitabina Strides Arcolab International 38 mg/ml pulbere pentru soluție perfuzabilă
Spain	Gemcitabina Strides 38 mg/ml polvo para solución para perfusion
Sweden	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml pulver till infusionsvätska, lösning
Slovak Republic	Gemcitabin Strides 38 mg/ml prášok na infúzny roztok
Slovenia	Gemcitabin Strides Arcolab 38 mg/ml prašek za raztopino za infundiranje
UK	Gemcitabine 38 mg/ml powder for solution for infusion

The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only:

Instructions for use, handling and disposal.

1. Use aseptic techniques during the reconstitution and any further dilution of gemcitabine for intravenous infusion administration.

2. Calculate the dose and the number of Gemcitabine vials needed.

3. Reconstitute 200 mg vials with 5 ml of 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) sterile sodium chloride solution for injection, without preservative, or 25 ml sterile sodium chloride solution for injection, without preservative to the 1000 mg vial. Shake to dissolve. The total volume after reconstitution is 5.26 ml (200 mg vial) or 26.3 ml (1000 mg vial) respectively. This dilution yields a gemcitabine concentration of 38 mg/ml, which includes accounting for the displacement volume of the lyophilised powder. Further dilution with sterile sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution for injection, without preservative may be done. The resulting solution is clear and ranges in colour from colourless to light straw-coloured.

4. Parenteral medicinal products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration. If particulate matter is observed, do not administer.

5. Solutions of reconstituted gemcitabine should not be refrigerated, as crystallisation may occur.
   Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 25°C. From a biological standpoint, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions of the reconstituted solution are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at room temperature, unless reconstitution/dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

6. Gemcitabine solutions are for single use only. Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

Preparation and administration precautions

The normal safety precautions for cytostatic agents must be observed when preparing and disposing of the infusion solution. Handling of the solution for infusion should be done in a safety box and protective coats and gloves should be used. If no safety box is available, the equipment should be supplemented with a mask and protective glasses.

If the preparation comes into contact with the eyes, this may cause serious irritation. The eyes should be rinsed immediately and thoroughly with water. If there is lasting irritation, a doctor should be consulted. If the solution is spilled on the skin, rinse thoroughly with water.

Disposal

Any unused product should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.