

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

### Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

#### Gemcitabine

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet**

1. What Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
3. How to use Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is and what it is used for**

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion belongs to a group of medicines called “cytotoxics”. These medicines kill dividing cells, including cancer cells.

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion may be given alone or in combination with other anti-cancer medicines, depending on the type of cancer.

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion 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. What you need to know before you use Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion**

##### **Do not use Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion**

- if you are allergic to gemcitabine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you are breast-feeding

#### **Warnings and precautions**

Before the first infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to evaluate if you have sufficient kidney and liver function. Before each infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to evaluate if you have enough blood cells to receive Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion. 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 evaluate your kidney and liver function.

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

- If you have, or have previously had liver disease, heart disease, vascular disease or problems with your kidneys talk to your doctor or pharmacist as you may not be able to receive Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
- If you have recently had, or are going to have radiotherapy, please tell your doctor as there may be an early or late radiation reaction with Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
- If you have been vaccinated recently, please tell your doctor as this can possibly cause bad effects with Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion
- If you develop breathing difficulties or feel very weak and are very pale, please tell your doctor as this may be a sign of kidney failure or problems with your lungs
- If you develop generalised swelling, shortness of breath or weight gain, please tell your doctor as this may be a sign of fluid leaking from your small blood vessels into the tissue
- If you are suffering from alcoholism, as this medicinal product contains ethanol (alcohol)
- If you are suffering from epilepsy, as this medicinal product contains ethanol (alcohol).

Instructions for dilution should be strictly followed in order to avoid adverse events.

### **Children and adolescents**

There is no relevant use of Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion in the paediatric population.

### **Other medicines and Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including vaccinations and medicines obtained without a prescription.

### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

#### **Pregnancy**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine. The use of Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion should be avoided during pregnancy. Your doctor will discuss with you the potential risk of taking Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion during pregnancy.

#### **Breast-feeding**

If you are breast-feeding, tell your doctor.

You must discontinue breast-feeding during Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion treatment.

#### **Fertility**

Men are advised not to father a child during and up to 6 months following treatment with Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion. 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 counselling on sperm storage before starting your therapy.

### **Driving and using machines**

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion may make you feel sleepy.

The amount of alcohol in this medicinal product may impair your ability to drive or use machines.

Do not drive a car or use machinery until you are sure that Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion treatment is not affecting your alertness.

### **Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion contains alcohol and sodium**

This medicinal product contains 395 mg ethanol (alcohol) per ml concentrate, equivalent to 500 ml beer, 200 ml wine per dose of 2 g. Harmful for those suffering from alcoholism. To be taken into account in high-risk groups such as patients with liver disease or epilepsy. The amount of alcohol in this medicinal product

may alter the effects of other medicines. The amount of alcohol in this medicinal product may impair your ability to drive or use machines.

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion contains 3.95 mg (< 1 mmol) of sodium in per ml concentrate. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

### **3. How to use Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion**

The recommended dose of Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion 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 Teva 40 mg/ml infusion depends on the type of cancer that you are being treated for.

A hospital pharmacist or doctor will have diluted the Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml concentrate before it is given to you.

You will always receive Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml by infusion into one of your veins. The infusion will last approximately 30 minutes.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

### **4. Possible side effects**

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

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

- Fever or infection (common): if you have a temperature of 38°C 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) (uncommon).
- Pain, redness, swelling or sores in your mouth (common).
- Allergic reactions: if you develop skin rash (very common) / itching (common), or fever (very common). Contact your doctor if you get a severe rash or itching or blistering (Stevens - Johnson syndrome or Toxic epidermal necrolysis).
- 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 /.../ infusion which soon passes, however uncommonly or rarely there can be more severe lung problems).
- Generalised swelling, shortness of breath or weight gain, as you might have fluid leakage from small blood vessels into the tissues (very rare).

**Side effects with Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion may include:**

**Very common side effects (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)**

Low haemoglobin level (anaemia)  
Low white blood cells  
Low platelet count  
Difficulty breathing  
Vomiting  
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  
Oedema (swelling of ankles, fingers, feet, face)

**Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)**

Fever accompanied by low white blood cell count (febrile neutropenia)  
Anorexia (poor appetite)  
Headache  
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 (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)**

Interstitial pneumonitis (scarring of the air sacs of the lung)  
Spasm of the airways (wheeze)  
Abnormal chest X ray/scan (scarring of the lungs)  
Irregular heart beat (arrhythmia)  
Heart failure  
Kidney failure  
Serious liver damage, including liver failure  
Stroke

**Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)**

Heart attack (myocardial infarction)  
Low blood pressure  
Skin scaling, ulceration or blister formation  
Injection site reactions  
Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (severe lung inflammation causing respiratory failure)  
Radiation recall (a skin rash like severe sunburn) 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  
Gangrene of fingers or toes

**Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)**

Increased platelet count  
Anaphylactic reaction (severe hypersensitivity/ allergic reaction)  
Sloughing of skin and severe skin blistering  
Ischaemic colitis (inflammation of the lining of the large bowel, caused by reduced blood supply)  
Capillary leak syndrome (fluids from your small blood vessels leak out into the tissue)

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.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

IRELAND: FREEPOST, Pharmacovigilance Section, Irish Medicines Board, Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 6764971, Fax: +353 1 6762517, Website: [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie), e-mail: [imbpharmacovigilance@imb.ie](mailto:imbpharmacovigilance@imb.ie).

**5. How to store Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

*Unopened container*

Do not refrigerate or freeze.

*After first opening*

Chemical and physical in use stability has been demonstrated for 28 days at 25°C.

From a microbiological point of view, once opened, the product may be stored for a maximum of 28 days at 25°C. Other in-use storage times and conditions are the responsibility of the user.

*Solution for infusion*

Chemical and physical in-use stability after dilution in 0.9% sodium chloride solution (5.2 mg/ml gemcitabine) has been demonstrated for 5 days at 2°C to 8°C and about 30°C.

From a microbiological point of view, the solution for infusion 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 2°C to 8°C unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion should not be used if there are any signs of particles.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion contains**

- The active substance is gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride). Each ml of concentration for solution for infusion contains 40 mg gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride). Each 5 ml vial contains 200 mg gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride). Each 25 ml vial contains 1 g gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride). Each 50 ml vial contains 2 g gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
- The other ingredients are disodium phosphate anhydrous, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, ethanol anhydrous and water for injections.

### **What Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion looks like and contents of the pack**

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is a clear, colourless or pale yellow solution.

Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is in colourless glass vials with rubber stopper and sealed with aluminium caps with polypropylene disc. Each vial will be packed with or without a protective plastic overwrap.

#### *Pack sizes*

1 x 5 ml vial

1 x 25 ml vial

1 x 50 ml vial

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

#### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Teva Pharma B.V.  
Computerweg 10  
3542 DR Utrecht  
The Netherlands

#### **Manufacturer**

S.C. Sindan-Pharma S.R.L.  
11 Ion Mihalache Blvd.,  
011171 Bucharest  
Romania

Pharmachemie B.V.  
Swensweg 5  
2031 GA, Haarlem  
The Netherlands

Teva Pharma B.V.  
Swensweg 5  
2031 GA Haarlem  
The Netherlands

Actavis Italy S.p.A.  
Viale Pasteur 10

20014 Nerviano (MI)

Italy

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

Belgium: Gemcitabine Teva

Bulgaria: Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Концентрат за инфузионен разтвор

Cyprus: Gemcitabine Teva 40mg/ml, πυκνό διάλυμα για παρασκευή διαλύματος προς έγχυση

Czech Republic: Gemcitabin Teva 40 mg/ml

Denmark: Getmisi

Estonia: Gemcitabine Teva

Finland: Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml infuusiokonsentraatti, liuosta varten

Germany: Gemcitabin Teva 40 mg/ml Konzentrat zur Herstellung einer Infusionslösung

Hungary: Gemcitabin-Teva 40mg/ml koncentrátum oldatos infúzióhoz

Ireland: Gemcitabine Teva 40mg/ml Concentrate for solution for Infusion

Lithuania: Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml koncentratas infuziniam tirpalui

Luxembourg: Gemcitabine Teva

Malta: Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion

Netherlands: Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml, concentraat voor oplossing voor infusie

Romania: Gemcitabină Teva 40 mg/ml concentrat pentru soluție perfuzabilă

Spain: Getmisi 40 mg/ml concentrado para solución para perfusion EFG

Slovenia: Gemcitabin Teva 40 mg/ml koncentrat za raztopino za infundiranje

**This leaflet was last revised in 02/2014.**

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

### **Instruction for use**

Cytotoxic

#### ***Handling***

The normal safety precautions for cytostatic agents must be observed when preparing and disposing of the infusion solution. Pregnant personnel should not handle the product. 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.

#### ***Instructions for dilution***

Instructions for dilution should be strictly followed in order to avoid adverse events.

The only approved diluent for dilution of Gemcitabine Teva 40 mg/ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution for injection (without preservative).

1. Use aseptic technique during dilution of gemcitabine for intravenous infusion administration.
2. The total quantity of the gemcitabine 40 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion required for an individual patient should be diluted **into at least 500 ml of sterile sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution** for injection (without preservative) and infused over 30 min. Further dilution with the same diluent can be done. Diluted solution is a clear colourless or light straw-coloured solution.
3. Parenteral medicinal products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration. If particulate matter is observed, do not administer.

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

#### ***Storage conditions***

##### *Unopened container*

Do not refrigerate or freeze.

##### *After first opening*

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##### *Solution for infusion*

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