**Package leaflet: Information for the user**

**/.../ 10 mg/ml solution for injection/infusion**

Folinic acid

**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 or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

**What is in this leaflet**


## 1. What /…/ is and what it is used for

/.../ contains calcium folinate, which is one of a group of medicine called detoxifying agents. It is a calcium salt of folinic acid, which is related to the vitamin folic acid.

/.../ is used to:
- reduce the harmful effects and treat overdose of certain types of anti-cancer medicines for instance methotrexate and other folic acid antagonists. This is known as "calcium folinate rescue".
- treat cancer in combination with 5-fluorouracil (an anti-cancer medicine). 5-fluorouracil works better when it is given together with /.../.

## 2. What you need to know before you use /…/

**Do not use /.../**
- if you are allergic to calcium folinate or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you suffer from anaemia (not enough red blood cells) caused by a lack of vitamin B12, such as:
  - pernicious anaemia (your immune systems fights your red blood cells)
  - megaloblastic anaemia (your red blood cells are larger than normal)

You should not be given /…/ together with certain anticancer drugs if you are pregnant or breastfeeding (your doctor will know which these are).

**Warnings and precautions**
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using /…/.

/…/ should only be given by intramuscular injection or intravenous injection or infusion and must not be administered intrathecally.

Please tell your doctor if you have any of the following illnesses or medical conditions:

- if you are being treated with 5-fluorouracil, especially if you are elderly or feel unwell, because /.../ can increase the harmful effects of 5-fluorouracil. This may make you more prone to infections (due to not enough white blood cells). You may also develop a sore mouth or diarrhoea. Digestive tract problems are also more common and may be severe or even life-threatening (see section 4, "Possible side effects"). Your doctor may decide stop the treatment with 5-fluorouracil and /.../.
- if you suffer from epilepsy and use anti-epileptic medicines (such as phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidone or succinimides). Because there is a risk that your seizures (fits) may occur more often when you receive /.../, your doctor will decide if the dose of your anti-epileptic medicine has to be changed.
- if you suffer from a macrocytosis (enlarged blood cells) due to treatment with anti-cancer medicines (such as hydroxycarbamide, cytarabine, mecaptopurine, thioguanine), because you should not be treated with /.../ for this disease.
- if you have kidney problems, as your doctor might need to change your dose of /…/.

**Other medicines and /…/**
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Please tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any of the following medicines:

- medicines which block the action of folic acid (folic acid antagonists) like cotrimoxazole (an antibiotic) or pyrimethamine (to treat special infections like malaria).
  /.../ can reduce the effectiveness of these medicines.
- medicines to treat epilepsy like phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidone or succinimides (e.g. ethosuximide, phensuximide).
  /.../ lowers the concentrations of these drugs in your body. This can increase the frequency of your seizures (fits). Your doctor will examine your blood to monitor the drug concentrations. Your doctor will also decide if the dose of your anti-epileptic medicine has to be changed.
- 5-fluorouracil:
  /.../ given together with 5-fluorouracil increases not only the efficacy of 5-fluorouracil, but can also increase its poisonousness. Your doctor will decide if your 5-fluorouracil dose has to be changed.

**Pregnancy and breast-feeding**
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

/.../ can be used to reduce the harmful effects of methotrexate, if your doctor decides that treatment with methotrexate is required for your condition when you are pregnant or breast-feeding. However, methotrexate should not generally be used when you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

There are no adequate data for the use of calcium folinate and 5-fluorouracil or other anti-cancer drugs in pregnant or breast-feeding women. However, anti-cancer drugs should not generally be used when you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

**Driving and using machines**
There is no evidence that calcium folinate has an effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

**/…/ contains sodium**
This medicinal product contains 3.05 mg sodium per ml, that is 9.15 mg per 3 ml vial and 30.5 mg per 10 ml vial. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

## 3. How to use /…/

The combination of /.../ with anti-cancer medicines (methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil) should only be given under the supervision of an experienced doctor.

Your doctor will decide about the dose you will receive based on your condition.

The solution of the medicine may be prepared especially for you individually by specialist staff. It is given slowly into a vein (as an injection or infusion) or it may be injected into a muscle. Your doctor will also decide how many injections or infusions you will need and how often they should be given.

**If you receive more /.../ than you should**
Reports of patients receiving significantly more calcium folinate than recommended dosage have not resulted in any symptoms. However, too much calcium folinate can reduce the efficacy of methotrexate.

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

## 4. Possible side effects

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

*Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):*
- severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel you are going to faint. This is a serious side effect. You may need urgent medical attention.

*Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):*
- fever

*Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):*
- difficulty sleeping (insomnia)
- agitation
- depression
- problems with the digestive system
- an increase in convulsions (fits) in patients with epilepsy

If you receive /…/ in combination with an anticancer medicine containing fluoropyrimidines, it is more likely that you may experience the following side effects of this other medicine:

*Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):*
- vomiting
- nausea
- severe diarrhea
- drying out which may be due to dearrhea
- inflammation of the lining of the intestine and mouth (life-threatening conditions have occurred)
- reduction in the number of blood cells (including life-threatening conditions)

*Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):*
- redness and swelling of the palms of the hands or the soles of the feet which may cause the skin to peel (hand-foot syndrome)

*Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)*:
- elevated ammonia level in the blood

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store /…/

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

Store in a refrigerator (2°C-8°C).

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

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

**What /.../ contains**

- The active substance is calcium folinate.
  1 ml solution for injection contains 10.8 mg of calcium folinate, equivalent to 10 mg folinic acid.
  1 vial of 3 ml contains 32.4 mg of calcium folinate equivalent to 30 mg folinic acid.
  1 vial of 10 ml contains 108 mg of calcium folinate equivalent to 100 mg folinic acid.

- The other ingredients are: sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and water for injections.

**What /.../ looks like and contents of the pack**

This medicine is a solution for injection. It is a clear, slightly yellow solution. It is filled in brown glass vials with rubber stoppers and aluminium caps with polypropylene disc.

*Package sizes:*
1 x 3 ml vial
5 x 3 ml vial
1 x 10 ml vial
5 x 10 ml vial

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

<[To be completed nationally]>

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

Denmark: Calciumfolinat Actavis
Bulgaria: Calcium folinate Actavis
Spain: Folinato Cálcico Actavis 10 mg/ml solución inyectable o para perfusión EFG
Ireland: Folinic Acid (as calcium folinate) Actavis 10mg/ml solution for injection or infusion
Italy: CALCIO FOLINATO Actavis
Norway: Calciumfolinat Actavis
Poland: Calcium folinate Actavis

**This leaflet was last revised in <{MM/YYYY}> <{month YYYY}>.**

<[To be completed nationally]>

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**The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only, more information on how to use this medicinal product is in section 3**:

**/.../ 10 mg/ml solution for injection/infusion**

**Incompatibilities**
/.../ must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section "Handling". Incompatibilities have been reported between injectable forms of calcium folinate and injectable forms of droperidol, fluorouracil, foscarnet and methotrexate.

**Handling**
**For intramuscular injection or intravenous injection or infusion.** Fatal if given by other routes. Do not administer calcium folinate intrathecally**.**

For intravenous infusion, calcium folinate may be diluted with 0.9% sodium chloride solution or 5% glucose solution.

The medicinal product is for single use only. Any unused solution should be discarded.

The solution for injection should be inspected visually prior to use. Only clear solutions without particles should be used.

In the case of intravenous administration, no more than 160 mg of calcium folinate should be injected per minute due to the calcium content of the solution.

**Shelf life**
After dilution of the /.../ solution in 5% glucose solution or in 0.9 % sodium chloride solution, the chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 15°C to 25°C and normal light exposure.

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