



ADULT Medication Monograph

# METHOTREXATE

This document should be read in conjunction with this [DISCLAIMER](#)



[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

 **HIGH RISK Medication**

<b>Class</b>	Antimetabolite, folic acid antagonist
<b>Presentation</b>	<p><b>Tablet:</b> 2.5mg, 10mg</p> <p><b>Injection (Prefilled Syringes):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5mg/0.2mL</li> <li>• 50mg/0.5ml</li> <li>• 60mg/0.6mL</li> <li>• 70mg/0.7mL</li> <li>• 75mg/0.75mL</li> <li>• 80mg/0.8mL</li> <li>• 90mg/0.9mL</li> <li>• 100mg/mL</li> <li>• 125mg/1.25mL</li> <li>• <i>Other strengths may be available for specific patients – contact pharmacy for further advice</i></li> </ul>
<b>Storage</b>	Store at room temperature, below 25°C
<b>Dose</b>	Refer to relevant <b>KEMH Clinical Guidelines</b> for appropriate dose regimes (links below)
<b>Administration</b>	<p><b>*CYTOTOXIC</b> – <i>Use cytotoxic handling precautions*</i> (link below)</p> <p><b><u>Oral</u></b></p> <p>Dose is administered ONCE WEEKLY. Give with or soon after food.</p> <p><b><u>IM injection</u></b></p> <p>Preferred route for treatment of ectopic pregnancy. Inject into buttock or lateral thigh. Injection is yellow.</p> <p><b><u>Intraectopic injection</u></b></p> <p><i>By senior medical staff only.</i></p>

	May be injected into the ectopic pregnancy sac laparoscopically or transvaginally under ultrasound guidance. Injection is yellow.
<b>Pregnancy</b>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:</b> Contraindicated</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:</b> Contraindicated</p> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:</b> Contraindicated</p>
<b>Breastfeeding</b>	<p><i>High chemotherapy doses:</i> Contraindicated</p> <p><i>For breastfeeding patients receiving a single systemic dose for ectopic pregnancy:</i> Express and discard milk for 24 hours. For high doses (&gt;75mg or dosing more than once weekly), express and discard milk for 2-4 days.</p> <p>For more information, please contact <a href="#">KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service</a>.</p>
<b>Monitoring</b>	FBC, LFTs, renal function, signs of immunosuppression or myelosuppression, signs of pulmonary toxicity/pneumonitis Hepatitis B & C serology (in high risk patients)
<b>Clinical Guidelines and Policies</b>	<p><b>KEMH Clinical Guidelines:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Pregnancy Care: First Trimester Complications</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ectopic Pregnancy: Medical Management</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease</a></li> </ul> <p>KEMH Patient Information Brochure: <a href="#">Systemic Methotrexate</a></p> <p><b>KEMH Pharmaceutical &amp; Medicines Management Guidelines:</b></p> <p>KEMH Pharmaceutical &amp; Medicines Management Guideline: <a href="#">Medication Administration</a></p> <p><a href="#">Cytotoxic Agents: Safe Handling Of</a></p>
<b>References</b>	<p>Australian Medicines Handbook. Methotrexate. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2019 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="https://amhonline.amh.net.au/">https://amhonline.amh.net.au/</a></p> <p>The Royal Women's Hospital. Methotrexate. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2018 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/">https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/</a></p> <p>U.S. National Library of Medicine. Methotrexate. In: Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed) [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2018 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available</p>

	<p>from: <a href="http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov">http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov</a></p> <p>Hale TW. Methotrexate. In: Medications and Mothers' Milk [Internet]. New York: Springer Publishing Company; 2019 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="http://www.medsmilk.com">http://www.medsmilk.com</a></p> <p>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Methotrexate. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2019 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="http://aidh.hcn.com.au">http://aidh.hcn.com.au</a></p> <p>Leung Y, Neesham D, McNally O, Garrett A, Brand A, Vaughn M, Skyes P. Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) Endorsed Guidelines [Internet]. 2017 [updated 2017 Mar; cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="http://www.ranzcog.edu.au">http://www.ranzcog.edu.au</a></p> <p>Hydatidiform Mole and Choriocarcinoma UK Information and Support Service [Internet]. London (UK): Charing Cross Hospital; 2019 [cited 2020 Apr 07]. Available from: <a href="http://www.hmole-chorio.org.uk/">http://www.hmole-chorio.org.uk/</a></p>
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<p><b>Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.</b></p> <p><b>Access the current version from the WNHS website.</b></p> <p><b>For any enquiries relating to this guideline, please email <a href="mailto:KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au">KEMH.PharmacyAdmin@health.wa.gov.au</a></b></p>			

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