ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE	
Methotrexate	
Scope (Staff):	All WNHS Staff
Scope (Area):	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
This document should be read in conjunction with the Disclaimer.	

Quick Links

Dose	Administration	Monitoring	Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Restrictions

Formulary: Unrestricted

HIGH RISK Medication

Medication Class

Antimetabolite, folic acid antagonist, immunomodulator, antineoplastic agent, disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD)

Presentation

Tablet: 2.5mg, 10mg

Injection (Prefilled Syringes):

- 5 mg/0.2 mL
- 50 mg/0.5 mL
- 60 mg/0.6 mL
- 70 mg/0.7 mL
- 75 mg/0.75 mL
- 80 mg/0.8 mL
- 90 mg/0.9 mL
- 100 mg/1 mL
- 125 mg/1.25 mL

Other strengths may be available for specific patients – contact pharmacy for further advice

Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

Dose

Refer to relevant WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines for appropriate dose regimes (links below)

Administration

CYTOTOXIC - *Use cytotoxic handling*

Oral

Dose is administered ONCE WEEKLY. Give with or soon after food.

IM injection

Preferred route for treatment of **ectopic pregnancy**. Inject into buttock or lateral thigh. Injection is yellow.

Intraectopic injection

By senior medical staff only.

May be injected into the ectopic pregnancy sac laparoscopically or transvaginal under ultrasound guidance. Injection is yellow.

Subcutaneous injection:

Suitable for once weekly injection for psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis. Inject into the upper thigh or abdomen

Monitoring

FBC, LFTs, renal function, signs of immunosuppression or myelosuppression, signs of pulmonary toxicity/pneumonitis.

Hepatitis B & C serology (in high-risk patients)

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Contraindicated

2nd Trimester: Contraindicated

3rd Trimester: Contraindicated

Breastfeeding

High chemotherapy doses: Contraindicated

For breastfeeding patients receiving a single systemic dose for ectopic pregnancy: Express and discard milk for 24 hours. For high doses (>75mg or dosing more than once weekly), express and discard milk for 2 to 4 days.

For more information, please contact KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service.

Comments

Refer to WNHS Cytotoxic and Hazardous guideline for safe handling and use of methotrexate.

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS Clinical Guidelines:

Pregnancy Care: First Trimester Complications

- Ectopic Pregnancy: Medical Management
- Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease

WNHS Patient Information Brochure:

- Methotrexate information sheet
- Methotrexate for ectopic pregnancy

WNHS Pharmaceutical & Medicines Management Guideline:

Medication Administration

Cytotoxic and Hazardous medications

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NSQHS Standards Applicable:	☒ Std 1: Clinical Governance ☒ Std 4: Medication Safety				
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