

# PEMCANT

## Pemetrexed for Injection

**500 mg/vial****COMPOSITION:****Each vial contains:** Pemetrexed Disodium Equivalent to Pemetrexed 500 mg.**EXCIPIENTS:**

Mannitol, Hydrochloric Acid and Sodium Hydroxide

**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:**

A White to either light yellow or green yellow lyophilized cake or solid filled into flint vial with rubber stopper and aluminium seal.

**PHARMACOLOGY:****Pharmacodynamic properties****Pharmacotherapeutic group:** Folic acid analogues**ATC code:** L01BA04.**Mechanism of action**

Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (pemetrexed) is a multi-targeted anti-cancer antifolate agent that exerts its action by disrupting crucial folate-dependent metabolic processes essential for cell replication.

In vitro studies have shown that pemetrexed behaves as a multi-targeted antifolate by inhibiting thymidylate synthase (TS), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), and glycaminide ribonucleotide formyltransferase (GARF), which are key folate-dependent enzymes for the de novo biosynthesis of thymidine and purine nucleotides. Pemetrexed is transported into cells by both the reduced folate carrier and membrane folate binding protein transport systems. Once in the cell, pemetrexed is rapidly and efficiently converted to polyglutamate forms by the enzyme polyglutamate synthetase. The polyglutamate forms are retained in cells and are even more potent inhibitors of TS and GARF. Polyglutamation is a time- and concentration-dependent process that occurs in tumour cells and, to a lesser extent, in normal tissues. Polyglutamated metabolites have an increased intracellular half-life resulting in prolonged drug action in malignant cells.

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in all subsets of the paediatric population in the granted indications (see **POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**).

The pharmacokinetic properties of pemetrexed following single-agent administration have been evaluated in 426 cancer patients with a variety of solid tumours at doses ranging from 0.2 to 838mg/m<sup>2</sup> infused over a 10-minute period. Pemetrexed has a steady-state volume of distribution of 9 L/m<sup>2</sup>. In vitro studies indicate that pemetrexed is approximately 81% bound to plasma proteins. Binding was not notably affected by varying degrees of renal impairment. Pemetrexed undergoes limited hepatic metabolism. Pemetrexed is primarily eliminated in the urine, with 70% to 90% of the administered dose being recovered unchanged in urine within the first 24 hours following administration. In vitro studies indicate that pemetrexed is actively secreted by OAT3 (organic anion transporter).

Pemetrexed total systemic clearance is 91.8mL/min and the elimination half-life from plasma is 3.5 hours in patients with normal renal function (creatinine clearance of 90mL/min). Between-patient variability in clearance is moderate at 19.3%. Pemetrexed total systemic exposure (AUC) and maximum plasma concentration increase proportionally with dose. The pharmacokinetics of pemetrexed are consistent over multiple treatment cycles.

The pharmacokinetic properties of pemetrexed are not influenced by concurrently administered cisplatin. Oral folic acid and intramuscular vitamin B<sub>12</sub> supplementation do not affect the pharmacokinetics of pemetrexed.

**Preclinical safety data**  
Administration of pemetrexed to pregnant mice resulted in decreased fetal viability, decreased foetal weight, incomplete ossification of some skeletal structures, and cleft palate.  
Administration of pemetrexed to male mice resulted in reproductive toxicity characterised by reduced fertility rates and testicular atrophy. In a study conducted in beagle dog by intravenous bolus injection for 9 months, testicular findings (degeneration/necrosis of the seminiferous epithelium) have been observed. This suggests that pemetrexed may impair male fertility. Female fertility was not investigated.  
Pemetrexed was not mutagenic in either the in vitro chromosome aberration test in Chinese hamster ovary cells, or the Ames test. Pemetrexed has been shown to be clastogenic in the in vivo micronucleus test in the mouse.  
Studies to assess the carcinogenic potential of pemetrexed have not been conducted.

**INDICATIONS:**

**Malignant pleural mesothelioma:**  
Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in combination with cisplatin is indicated for the treatment of chemotherapy-naïve patients with unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma.

**Non-small cell lung cancer:**  
Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in combination with cisplatin is indicated for the first-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) other than predominantly squamous cell histology (see **PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES**).  
Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is indicated as monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer other than predominantly squamous cell histology in patients whose disease has not progressed immediately following platinum-based chemotherapy (see **PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES**).

Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is indicated as monotherapy for the second-line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer other than predominantly squamous cell histology (see **PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES**).

**RECOMMENDED DOSE:**  
**Fosology**  
Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial must only be administered under the supervision of a physician qualified in the use of anti-cancer chemotherapy.

**Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in combination with cisplatin**  
The recommended dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> of body surface area (BSA) administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle. The recommended dose of cisplatin is 75mg/m<sup>2</sup> BSA infused over two hours approximately 30 minutes after completion of the pemetrexed infusion on the first day of each 21-day cycle. Patients must receive adequate anti-emetic treatment and appropriate hydration prior to and/or after receiving cisplatin.

**Method of administration**  
For Precautions to be taken before specifically or administering Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial, see **DIRECTION FOR USE**  
Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial should be administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle. For instructions on reconstitution and dilution of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial before administration, see **DIRECTION FOR USE**.

**Directions for Use:**

- Use aseptic technique during the reconstitution and further dilution of pemetrexed for intravenous infusion administration.
- Calculate the dose and the number of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial vials needed. Each vial contains an excess of pemetrexed to facilitate delivery of label amount.
- Reconstitute 500mg vials with 20mL of 9mg/mL sodium chloride injection (0.9%), without preservative, resulting in a solution containing 25mg/mL pemetrexed. Gently swirl each vial until the powder is completely dissolved. The resulting solution is clear and ranges in colour from colourless to yellow or green-yellow without adversely affecting product quality. The pH of the reconstituted solution is between 6.6 and 7.8. **Further dilution is required.**
- The appropriate volume of reconstituted pemetrexed solution must be further diluted to 100mL, with 9mg/mL sodium chloride injection (0.9%), without preservative, and administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes.
- Pemetrexed infusion solutions prepared as directed above are compatible with polyvinyl chloride- and polyolefin-lined administration sets and infusion bags.
- Parenteral medicinal products must be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. If particulate matter is observed, do not administer.

Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial as single agent  
In Patients treated for non-small cell lung cancer after prior chemotherapy, the recommended dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> BSA administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle.

Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in combination with cisplatin  
The recommended dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> of body surface area (BSA) administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle. The recommended dose of cisplatin is 75mg/m<sup>2</sup> BSA infused over two hours approximately 30 minutes after completion of the pemetrexed infusion on the first day of each 21-day cycle. Patients must receive adequate anti-emetic treatment and appropriate hydration prior to and/or after receiving cisplatin.

Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial as single agent  
In Patients treated for non-small cell lung cancer after prior chemotherapy, the recommended dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial is 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> BSA administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle.

**Pre-medication Regimen**

To reduce the incidence and severity of skin reactions, a corticosteroid should be given the day prior to, on the day of, and the day after pemetrexed administration. The corticosteroid should be equivalent to 4mg of dexamethasone administered orally twice a day (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**).

To reduce toxicity, patients treated with pemetrexed must also receive vitamin supplementation (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**). Patients must take oral folic acid or a multivitamin containing folic acid (350 to 1,000 micrograms) on a daily basis. At least five doses of folic acid must be taken during the seven days preceding the first dose of pemetrexed, and dosing must continue during the full course of therapy and for 21 days after the last dose of pemetrexed. Patients must also receive an intramuscular injection of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (1,000 micrograms) in the week preceding the first dose of pemetrexed and once every three cycles thereafter. Subsequent vitamin B<sub>12</sub> injections may be given on the same day as pemetrexed.

**Monitoring**

Patients receiving pemetrexed should be monitored before each dose with a complete blood count, including a differential white cell count (WCC) and platelet count. Prior to each chemotherapy administration, blood chemistry tests should be collected to evaluate renal and hepatic function. Before the start of any cycle of chemotherapy, patients are required to have the following: absolute neutrophil count (ANC) should be  $\geq$  1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and platelets should be  $\geq$  100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. Creatinine clearance should be  $\geq$  45mL/min.

The total bilirubin should be  $\leq$  1.5-times upper limit of normal. Alkaline phosphatase (AP), aspartate aminotransferase (AST or SGOT), and alanine aminotransferase (ALT or SGPT) should be  $\leq$  3-times upper limit of normal. Alkaline phosphatase, AST, and ALT  $\leq$  5-times upper limit of normal is acceptable if liver has tumour involvement.

**Dose Adjustments**

Dose adjustments at the start of a subsequent cycle should be based on nadir haematologic counts or maximum non-haematologic toxicity from the preceding cycle of therapy. Treatment may be delayed to allow sufficient time for recovery. Upon recovery, patients should be re-treated using the guidelines in Tables 1, 2, and 3, which are applicable for Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial used as a single agent or in combination with cisplatin.

<b>Table 1. Dose Modification Table for Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (as Single Agent or in Combination) and Cisplatin – Haematologic Toxicities</b>		
Nadir ANC < 500/mm <sup>3</sup> and nadir platelets $\geq$ 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup>	75% of previous dose (both Pemetrexed and cisplatin)	
Nadir platelets < 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> regardless of nadir ANC	75% of previous dose (both Pemetrexed for nadir ANC and cisplatin)	
Nadir platelets < 50,000/mm <sup>3</sup> with bleeding*, regardless of nadir ANC	50% of previous dose (both Pemetrexed for nadir ANC and cisplatin)	

\* These criteria meet the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998) definition of  $\geq$  CTC Grade 2 bleeding.

If patients develop non-haematologic toxicities  $\geq$  Grade 3 (excluding neurotoxicity), Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial should be withheld until resolution to less than or equal to the patient's pre-therapy value. Treatment should be resumed according to the guidelines in Table 2.

<b>Table 2. Dose Modification Table for Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (as Single Agent or in Combination) and Cisplatin – Non-Haematologic Toxicities <sup>a, b</sup></b>		
	<b>Dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (mg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Dose for Cisplatin (mg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Any Grade 3 or 4 toxicities except mucositis	75% of previous dose	75% of previous dose
Any diarrhoea requiring hospitalization (irrespective of grade) or Grade 3 or 4 diarrhoea	75% of previous dose	75% of previous dose
Grade 3 or 4 mucositis	50% of previous dose	100% of previous dose

<sup>a</sup> National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998)  
<sup>b</sup> Excluding neurotoxicity

In the event of neurotoxicity, the recommended dose adjustment for Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial and cisplatin is documented in Table 3. Patients should discontinue therapy if Grade 3 or 4 neurotoxicity is observed.

<b>Table 3. Dose Modification Table for Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (as Single Agent or in Combination) and Cisplatin – Neurotoxicity</b>		
<b>CTC Grade</b>	<b>Dose of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial (mg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Dose for Cisplatin (mg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
0-1	100 % of previous dose	100 % of previous dose
2	100 % of previous dose	50 % of previous dose

<sup>a</sup> National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998)

Treatment with Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial should be discontinued if a patient experiences any haematologic or non-haematologic Grade 3 or 4 toxicity after 2 dose reductions or immediately if Grade 3 or 4 neurotoxicity is observed.

**Elderly:** In clinical studies, there has been no indication that patients 65 years of age or older are at increased risk of adverse events compared to patients younger than 65 years old. No dose reductions or other than those recommended for all patients are necessary.

**Paediatric population:** There is no relevant use of Pemetrexed for Injection 500 mg/vial in the paediatric population in malignant pleural mesothelioma and non-small cell lung cancer.

**Patients with renal impairment (standard Cockcroft and Gault formula or glomerular filtration rate measured Tc99m DTPA serum clearance method):** Pemetrexed is primarily eliminated unchanged by renal excretion. In clinical studies, patients with creatinine clearance of  $\geq$  45mL/min required no dose adjustments other than those recommended for all patients. There are insufficient data on the use of pemetrexed in patients with creatinine clearance below 45mL/min; therefore, the use of pemetrexed is not recommended (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**).

**Patients with hepatic impairment:** No relationships between AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT), or total bilirubin and pemetrexed pharmacokinetics were identified. However, patients with hepatic impairment, such as bilirubin  $>$  1.5- times the upper limit of normal and/or aminotransferase  $>$  3.0-times the upper limit of normal (hepatic metastases absent) or  $>$  5.0-times the upper limit of normal (hepatic metastases present), have not been specifically studied.

be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

**Preparation and administration precautions:** As with other potentially toxic anti-cancer agents, care should be exercised in the handling and preparation of pemetrexed infusion solutions. The use of gloves is recommended. If a pemetrexed solution contacts the skin, wash the skin immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. If pemetrexed solutions contact the mucous membranes, flush thoroughly with water. Pemetrexed is not a vesicant. There is not a specific antidote for extravasation of pemetrexed. There have been few reported cases of pemetrexed extravasation, which were not assessed as serious by the investigator. Extravasation should be managed by local standard practice as with other non-vesicants.

**CONTRA-INDICATIONS:**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section List of EXCIPIENTS.

Breast-feeding (see **FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**).

Concomitant yellow fever vaccine (see **DRUGS INTERACTIONS**).

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE:**

Pemetrexed can suppress bone marrow function as manifested by neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and anaemia (or pancytopenia) (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**). Myelosuppression is usually the dose-limiting toxicity. Patients should be monitored for myelosuppression during therapy and pemetrexed should not be given to patients until absolute neutrophil count (ANC) returns to  $\geq$  1,500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> and platelet count returns to  $\geq$  100,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. Dose reductions for subsequent cycles are based on nadir ANC, platelet count, and maximum non-haematologic toxicity seen from the previous cycle (see **POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**).

Less toxicity and reduction in Grade 3/4 haematologic and non-haematologic toxicities, such as neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, and infection with Grade 3/4 neutropenia, were reported when pre-treatment with folic acid and vitamin B<sub>12</sub> was administered. Therefore, all patients treated with pemetrexed must be instructed to take folic acid and vitamin B<sub>12</sub> as a prophylactic measure to reduce treatment-related toxicity (see **POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**).

Skin reactions have been reported in patients not pre-treated with a corticosteroid. Pre-treatment with dexamethasone (or equivalent) can reduce the incidence and severity of skin reactions (see **POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**).

An insufficient number of patients has been studied with creatinine clearance of below 45mL/min. Therefore, the use of pemetrexed in patients with creatinine clearance of  $<$ 45mL/min is not recommended (see **POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**).

Patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance from 45 to 79mL/min) should avoid taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, and acetylsalicylic acid ( $>$ 1.3g daily) for 2 days before, on the day of, and 2 days following pemetrexed administration (see **DRUGS INTERACTIONS**).

In patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency eligible for pemetrexed therapy, NSAIDs with long elimination half-lives should be interrupted for at least 5 days prior to, on the day of, and at least 2 days following pemetrexed administration (see **DRUGS INTERACTIONS**).

Serious renal events, including acute renal failure, have been reported with pemetrexed alone or in association with other chemotherapeutic agents. Many of the patients in whom these occurred had underlying risk factors for the development of renal events, including dehydration or pre-existing hypertension or diabetes.

Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus and renal tubular necrosis were also reported in post marketing setting with pemetrexed alone or with other chemotherapeutic agents. Most of these events resolved after pemetrexed withdrawal. Patients should be monitored for acute tubular necrosis and decreased renal function and signs and symptoms of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (e.g. hypernatraemia).

The effect of third-space fluid, such as pleural effusion or ascites, on pemetrexed is not fully defined. In study of pemetrexed in solid tumour patients with stable third-space fluid demonstrated no difference in pemetrexed dose normalised plasma concentrations or clearance compared to patients without third-space fluid collection. Thus, drainage of third-space fluid collection prior to pemetrexed treatment should be considered, but may not be necessary.

Due to the gastrointestinal toxicity of pemetrexed given in combination with cisplatin, severe dehydration has been observed. Therefore, patients should receive adequate anti-emetic treatment and appropriate hydration prior to and/or after receiving treatment.

Serious cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular events, have been uncommonly reported during clinical studies with pemetrexed, usually when given in combination with another cytotoxic agent.

Most of the patients in whom these events have been observed had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors (see **ADVERSE REACTIONS**).

Immunodepressed status is common in cancer patients. As a result, concomitant use of live attenuated vaccines is not recommended (see **CONTRA-INDICATIONS AND DRUGS INTERACTIONS**).

Pemetrexed can have genetically damaging effects. Sexually mature males are advised not to father a child during the treatment and up to 6 months thereafter. Contraceptive measures or abstinence are recommended. Owing to the possibility of pemetrexed treatment causing irreversible infertility, men are advised to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting treatment.

Women of childbearing potential must use effective contraception during treatment with pemetrexed (see **FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**).

Cases of radiation pneumonitis have been reported in patients treated with radiation either prior, during, or subsequent to their pemetrexed therapy. Particular attention should be paid to these patients, and caution exercised with use of other radio sensitising agents.

Cases of radiation recall have been reported in patients who received radiotherapy weeks or years previously.  
500mg vial: This medicinal product contains approximately sodium hydroxide may have been added to adjust pH. To be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

**Effects on ability to drive and use machines**  
No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. However, it has been reported that pemetrexed may cause fatigue. Therefore, patients should be cautioned against driving or operating machines if this event occurs.

**INCOMPATIBILITIES:**

Pemetrexed is physically incompatible with diluents containing calcium, including lactated Ringer's injection and Ringer's injection. In the absence of other compatibility studies this medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Pemetrexed is mainly eliminated unchanged renally by tubular secretion and to a lesser extent by glomerular filtration. Concomitant administration of nephrotoxic drugs (e.g., aminoglycoside, loop diuretics, platinum compounds, cyclosporin) could potentially result in delayed clearance of pemetrexed. This combination should be used with caution. If necessary, creatinine clearance should be closely monitored.

Concomitant administration of substances that are also tubularly secreted (e.g., probenecid, penicillin) could potentially result in delayed clearance of pemetrexed. Caution should be made when these drugs are combined with pemetrexed. If necessary, creatinine clearance should be closely monitored.

In patients with normal renal function (creatinine clearance  $\geq$  80mL/min), high doses of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen  $>$  1600mg/day) and acetylsalicylic acid at higher doses ( $>$  1.3g daily) may decrease pemetrexed elimination and, consequently, increase the occurrence of pemetrexed adverse events. Therefore, caution should be made when administering higher doses of NSAIDs or acetylsalicylic acid, concurrently with pemetrexed to patients with normal function (creatinine clearance  $\geq$  80mL/min).

In patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance from 45 to 79mL/min), the concomitant administration of pemetrexed with NSAIDs (e.g., ibuprofen) or acetylsalicylic acid at higher doses should be avoided for 2 days before, on the day of, and 2 days following pemetrexed

administration (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**).

In the absence of data regarding potential interaction with NSAIDs having longer half-lives such as piroxicam or rofecoxib, the concomitant administration with pemetrexed in patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency should be interrupted for at least 5 days prior to, on the day of, and at least 2 days following pemetrexed administration (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**). If concomitant administration of NSAIDs is necessary, patients should be monitored closely for toxicity, especially myelosuppression and gastrointestinal toxicity.

Pemetrexed undergoes limited hepatic metabolism. Results from *in vitro* studies with human liver microsomes indicated that pemetrexed would not be predicted to cause clinically significant inhibition of the metabolic clearance of drugs metabolised by CYP3A, CYP2D6, CYP2C9, and CYP1A2.

Interactions Common to all Cytotoxics:

Due to the increased thrombotic risk in patients with cancer, the use of anticoagulation treatment is frequent. The high intra-individual variability of the coagulation status during diseases and the possibility of interaction between oral anticoagulants and anti-cancer chemotherapy require increased frequency of INR (International Normalised Ratio) monitoring, if it is decided to treat the patient with oral anticoagulants.

Concomitant Use Contraindicated:

*Yellow fever vaccine:* Risk of fatal generalised vaccinal disease (see **CONTRA-INDICATIONS**).

Concomitant Use Not Recommended:

*Live attenuated vaccines (except yellow fever, for which concomitant use is contraindicated):*

Risk of systemic, possibly fatal, disease. The risk is increased in subjects who are already immunosuppressed by their underlying disease. Use an inactivated vaccine where it exists (poliomyelitis) (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**).

**FERTILITY PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:****Contraception in males and females**

Women of childbearing potential must use effective contraception during treatment with pemetrexed. Pemetrexed can have genetically damaging effects. Sexually mature males are advised not to father a child during the treatment, and up to 6 months thereafter. Contraceptive measures or abstinence are recommended.

**Fertility**

There are no data from the use of pemetrexed in pregnant women; but pemetrexed, like other anti-metabolites, is suspected to cause serious birth defects when administered during pregnancy. Animal studies have shown reproductive toxicity (see section Preclinical safety data). Pemetrexed should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary, after a careful consideration of the needs of the mother and the risk for the foetus (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**).

**Breast-feeding**

It is not known whether pemetrexed is excreted in human milk, and adverse reactions on the suckling child cannot be excluded. Breast-feeding must be discontinued during pemetrexed therapy (see **CONTRA-INDICATIONS**).

**Fertility**

Owing to the possibility of pemetrexed treatment causing irreversible infertility, men are advised to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting treatment.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:****Summary of the safety profile**

The most commonly reported undesirable effects related to pemetrexed, whether used as monotherapy or in combination, are bone marrow suppression manifested as anaemia, neutropenia, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia; and gastrointestinal toxicities, manifested as anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, pharyngitis, mucositis, and stomatitis. Other undesirable effects include renal toxicities, increased aminotransferases, alopecia, fatigue, dehydration, rash, infection/ sepsis and neuropathy. Rarely seen events include Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis.

**Tabulated list of adverse reactions**

The table below provides the frequency and severity of undesirable effects that have been reported in  $>$ 5% of 168 patients with mesothelioma who were randomised to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed, and 163 patients with mesothelioma randomised to receive single-agent cisplatin. In both treatment arms, these chemonaive patients were fully supplemented with folic acid and vitamin B<sub>12</sub>.

**Adverse Reactions**

**Frequency estimates:** Very common ( $\geq$  1/10), common ( $\geq$  1/100 and  $<$  1/10), uncommon ( $\geq$  1/1,000 and  $<$  1/100), rare ( $\geq$  1/10,000 and  $<$  1/1,000), very rare ( $\geq$  1/10,000) and not known (cannot be estimated from available data – spontaneous reports).

Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

<b>System organ class</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Event*</b>	<b>Pemetrexed/ Cisplatin (N = 168)</b>		<b>Cisplatin (N = 163)</b>	
			<b>All grades toxicity (%)</b>	<b>Grade 3-4 toxicity (%)</b>	<b>All grades toxicity (%)</b>	<b>Grade 3-4 toxicity (%)</b>
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very common	Neutrophils/Granulocytes decreased	56.0	23.2	13.5	3.1
		Leucocytes decreased	53.0	14.9	16.6	0.6
		Haemoglobin decreased	26.2	4.2	10.4	0.0
		Platelets decreased	23.2	5.4	8.6	0.0
		Dehydration	6.5	4.2	0.6	0.6
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Very common	Neuropathy-sensory	10.1	0.0	9.8	0.6
		Taste disturbance	7.7	0.0***	6.1	0.0**
		Conjunctivitis	5.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
		Diarrhoea	16.7	3.8	8.0	0.0
		Vomiting	56.5	10.7	49.7	4.3
Eye disorders	Common	Stomatitis/Pharyngitis	23.2	3.0	6.1	0.0
		Nausea	82.1	11.9	76.7	5.5
		Anorexia	20.2	1.2	14.1	0.6
		Constipation	11.9	0.6	7.4	0.6
		Dyspepsia	5.4	0.6	0.6	0.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Very common	Rash	16.1	0.6	4.9	0.0
		Alopecia	11.3	0.0**	5.5	0.0**
		Neuropathy-sensory	10.1	0.0	9.8	0.6
		Taste disturbance	7.7	0.0***	6.1	0.0**
		Conjunctivitis	5.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Renal and urinary disorders	Very common	Neutrophils/Granulocytes decreased	56.0	23.2	13.5	3.1
		Leucocytes decreased	53.0	14.9	16.6	0.6
		Haemoglobin decreased	26.2	4.2	10.4	0.0
		Platelets decreased	23.2	5.4	8.6	0.0
		Dehydration	6.5	4.2	0.6	0.6
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Fatigue	47.6	10.1	42.3	9.2

Clinically relevant CTC toxicities that were reported in  $\geq$  1% and  $\leq$  5

