Leucovorin (loo Koe Vorin)  
Patient Education

US Brand Names: Wellcovorin  
Therapeutic Category: chemotherapy antidote, vitamin (folinic acid)

What is this medicine used for?  
- This medicine is used to rescue the cells in your body when you receive high doses of methotrexate.

How does it work?  
- Leucovorin is given after high doses of methotrexate to decrease the damage done to healthy cells. Leucovorin “rescues” normal cells from the effects of chemotherapy and allows them to survive.

What should my doctor or nurse know before I take this medication?  
- If you are allergic to any medicines.  
- If you are allergic to folic acid or any other part of this medicine, you should not take this medicine.

How is this drug given?  
- This medicine is given into a vein or taken by mouth on a set schedule. Ask your doctor or nurse how and when you will be taking this medication. Take this medicine with or without food. Take with food if it causes an upset stomach.

What are the general precautions when taking this medicine?  
- Talk with your doctor or nurse before taking aspirin, aspirin-containing products, over the counter or prescription medications, including vitamins and herbal remedies.  
- Tell healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant.  
- Tell healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding.

What are the common side effects of this medicine?  
- Side effects are uncommon with leucovorin.  
- Rare side effects include: allergic hypersensitivity reaction – rash, hives, itching, shortness of breath, wheezing, cough, swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat.
Danger signals to report immediately to your doctor or nurse:

- Signs of a life threatening hypersensitivity reaction: wheezing, chest tightness, fever, itching, bad cough, blue skin color, seizures, or swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat.

How should I store this medicine?

- Store at room temperature.
- Protect from light and moisture. Do not store in a bathroom or kitchen.
- Keep all medicine out of reach of children & pets.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- It is important that you take your leucovorin on schedule. You may need to set your alarm clock to wake up and take a dose of leucovorin on schedule.
- If you miss a dose, contact your doctor or nurse immediately.

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