

## 5. Medications to be avoided when on Methotrexate

- Allopurinol
- Penicillins
- Aspirin
- Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- Sulfonamides
- Probenecid
- Chloramphenicol
- Tetracyclines
- Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. Naprosyn). Alcohol should also be avoided.

If you go to the dentist or another doctor during this time, tell them that you are currently receiving Methotrexate.

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Government of Western Australia  
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Delivering a Healthy WA

# Systemic Methotrexate

PATIENT INFORMATION

You have been given an injection of Methotrexate to treat your ectopic pregnancy.

You will be asked to return to the Emergency Centre on day four and day seven of your treatment for blood tests. If your hCG level (which is monitored by blood tests) has not fallen adequately, you may receive a second injection. If the hCG level has fallen, you will be asked to have weekly blood tests, which will be monitored by your GP, until the level is back to normal.

Methotrexate is a drug that is usually well tolerated in the dose you have been given. Some people notice some mild side effects, which include nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. These symptoms will usually settle in a few days.

Many patients also experience some colicky abdominal (tummy) pain in the first few days after their injection. It is best to avoid gas-producing foods such as cabbage and leeks during this time.

Some patients will have pelvic pain four to seven days after their injection. This usually lasts only 4 to 12 hours. If the pain is severe or you feel faint or experience shoulder tip pain, you should return to the Emergency Centre for assessment.

There are some extremely rare but serious side effects, which you will be monitored for during your return visits to the Emergency Centre in the week following your injection. The doctor will explain these to you prior to your injection.

Until your hCG levels are back to normal, you should avoid:

- Sexual intercourse
- Alcohol
- Folic acid
- Excessive sun exposure
- Anti-inflammatories such as naprosyn and voltaren

If you are unsure, ask your doctor.

It is recommended that you use contraception and avoid pregnancy for six months.

## Methotrexate therapy

Occasionally, you may encounter some problems which may cause you some discomfort.

### 1. Mouth ulcers (stomatitis)

- Use a soft toothbrush and rinse your mouth with warm water
- Don't use mouthwashes containing alcohol
- Avoid foods that are too hot or cold

### 2. Photosensitivity

- Avoid exposure to the sun
- Wear protective clothing in the summer
- Use a sun blocking cream or lotion with SPF of 15+

### 3. Nausea

- This may occur occasionally but can be alleviated with medication from your doctor
- Small nourishing meals will maintain your health

### 4. Infection

If you have a fever, cough, sore throat or any infection, immediately inform your doctor at KEMH.