

FOLINIC ACID

Trade Name	Calcium Folate (Folinic Acid) Injection 10 mg/mL (Sandoz)
Class	Folate supplement
Mechanism of Action	Calcium folinate is a reduced form of folic acid. It does not require reduction by dihydrofolate reductase for activation. Folinic acid is an important co-factor in purine and thymidine synthesis and the process of erythropoiesis.
Indications	Indication 1: Prevention of pyrimethamine and sulfadiazine induced haematologic toxicity. Indication 2: Folinic acid responsive epilepsy
Contraindications	Pernicious anaemia
Supplied As	Injection repacked by pharmacy for oral use
Dilution	Nil required
Dosage	Indication 1: 5mg /dose for the first 6 months (note this is not a per kg dose), then , 10mg/dose for months 6 – 12 Indication 2: 5mg/kg/DAY
Interval	Indication 1: Three times a week Indication 2: 12 hourly
Administration	Oral (injection solution is administered orally)
Compatible With	N/A
Incompatible With	N/A
Monitoring	Full blood count
Stability	7 days at 2-8°C
Storage	In the fridge. Do not freeze. Protect from light.
Adverse Reactions	Rash, wheezing, thrombocytosis
Metabolism	Rapid oral absorption, converted to the active form 5-methyl-tetrahydrofolate by enzymes in the intestinal mucosa and liver. 80-90% eliminated in urine.
Interactions	Calcium folinate may decrease the anti-epileptic effect of phenobarbital. Folinic acid may decrease the antimicrobial effect of sulphamethoxazole and trimethoprim
Comments	This product contains sodium chloride 8 mg/mL

References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Micromedex 2. Paediatric Dosage Handbook 6th Ed 1999-2000 3. BNF for Children 4. www.uptodate.com 5. www.medsafe.govt.nz 6. www.nzf.org.nz 7. Amenable Treatable Severe Pediatric Epilepsies. <i>Seminars in Ped Neurol.</i> 23:158-166.
Updated By	<p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe December 2008</p> <p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe Oct 2012 (re-order profile)</p> <p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe March 2021 (review/update)</p> <p>A Lynn, B Robertshawe, P Shillito July 2022 (add in seizure indication)</p>