

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

ALIMTA[®] (uh-LIM-tuh) (pemetrexed for injection)

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462 Read the Patient Information that comes with ALIMTA before you start treatment and each time
463 you get treated with ALIMTA. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the
464 place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. Talk to your doctor if
465 you have any questions about ALIMTA.

466 **What is ALIMTA?**

467 ALIMTA is a treatment for a type of cancer called malignant pleural mesothelioma. This cancer
468 affects the inside lining of the chest cavity. ALIMTA is given with cisplatin, another anti-cancer
469 medicine (chemotherapy). **To lower your chances of side effects of ALIMTA, you must also**
470 **take folic acid and vitamin B₁₂ prior to and during your treatment with ALIMTA.** Your
471 doctor will prescribe a medicine called a “corticosteroid” to take for 3 days during your
472 treatment with ALIMTA. Corticosteroid medicines lower your chances of getting skin reactions
473 with ALIMTA.

474 ALIMTA has not been studied in children.

475 **What should I tell my doctor before taking ALIMTA?**

476 Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- 477 • **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** ALIMTA may harm your unborn baby.
- 478 • **are breastfeeding.** It is not known if ALIMTA passes into breast milk. You should stop
479 breastfeeding once you start treatment with ALIMTA.
- 480 • **are taking other medicines,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines,
481 vitamins, and herbal supplements. ALIMTA and other medicines may affect each other
482 causing serious side effects. Especially, tell your doctor if you are taking medicines
483 called “nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs” (NSAIDs) for pain or swelling. There are
484 many NSAID medicines. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist if any of your
485 medicines are NSAIDs.

486 **How is ALIMTA given?**

- 487 • ALIMTA is slowly infused (injected) into a vein. The injection or infusion will last about
488 10 minutes. You will usually receive ALIMTA once every 21 days (3 weeks).
- 489 • Cisplatin is infused in your vein for about 2 hours starting about 30 minutes after your
490 treatment with ALIMTA.
- 491 • Your doctor will prescribe a medicine called a “corticosteroid” to take for 3 days during
492 your treatment with ALIMTA. Corticosteroid medicines lower your chances for getting
493 skin reactions with ALIMTA.
- 494 • **It is very important to take folic acid and vitamin B₁₂ during your treatment with**
495 **ALIMTA to lower your chances of harmful side effects.** You must start taking 350-
496 1000 micrograms of folic acid every day for at least 5 days out of the 7 days before your

497 first dose of ALIMTA. You must keep taking folic acid every day during the time you are
 498 getting treatment with ALIMTA, and for 21 days after your last treatment. You can get
 499 folic acid vitamins over-the-counter. Folic acid is also found in many multivitamin pills.
 500 Ask your doctor or pharmacist for help if you are not sure how to choose a folic acid
 501 product. Your doctor will give you vitamin B₁₂ injections while you are getting treatment
 502 with ALIMTA. You will get your first vitamin B₁₂ injection during the week before your
 503 first dose of ALIMTA, and then about every 9 weeks during treatment.

- 504 • You will have regular blood tests before and during your treatment with ALIMTA. Your
 505 doctor may adjust your dose of ALIMTA or delay treatment based on the results of your
 506 blood tests and on your general condition.

507 **What should I avoid while taking ALIMTA?**

- 508 • **Women who can become pregnant should not become pregnant during treatment**
 509 **with ALIMTA.** ALIMTA may harm the unborn baby.
- 510 • **Ask your doctor before taking medicines called NSAIDs.** There are many NSAID
 511 medicines. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist if any of your medicines are
 512 NSAIDs.

513 **What are the possible side effects of ALIMTA?**

514 Most patients taking ALIMTA will have side effects. Sometimes it is not always possible to tell
 515 whether ALIMTA, another medicine, or the cancer itself is causing these side effects. **Call your**
 516 **doctor right away if you have a fever, chills, diarrhea, or mouth sores.** These symptoms
 517 could mean you have an infection.

518 The most common side effects of ALIMTA when taken with cisplatin are:

- 519 • **Stomach upset, including nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.** You can obtain medicines
 520 to help control some of these symptoms. Call your doctor if you get any of these
 521 symptoms.
- 522 • **Low blood cell counts:**
 - 523 • **Low red blood cells.** Low red blood cells may make you feel tired, get tired
 524 easily, appear pale, and become short of breath.
 - 525 • **Low white blood cells.** Low white blood cells may give you a greater chance
 526 for infection. If you have a fever (temperature above 100.4°F) or other signs of
 527 infection, call your doctor right away.
 - 528 • **Low platelets.** Low platelets give you a greater chance for bleeding. Your
 529 doctor will do blood tests to check your blood counts before and during
 530 treatment with ALIMTA.
- 531 • **Tiredness.** You may feel tired or weak for a few days after your ALIMTA treatments. If
 532 you have severe weakness or tiredness, call your doctor.
- 533 • **Mouth, throat, or lip sores** (stomatitis, pharyngitis). You may get redness or sores in
 534 your mouth, throat, or on your lips. These symptoms may happen a few days after
 535 ALIMTA treatment. Talk with your doctor about proper mouth and throat care.
- 536 • **Loss of appetite.** You may lose your appetite and lose weight during your treatment.
 537 Talk to your doctor if this is a problem for you.

538 • **Rash.** You may get a rash or itching during treatment. These usually appear between
539 treatments with ALIMTA and usually go away before the next treatment. Call your
540 doctor if you get a severe rash or itching.

541 Talk with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about any side effect that bothers you or that doesn't
542 go away.

543 These are not all the side effects of ALIMTA. For more information, ask your doctor, nurse or
544 pharmacist.

545 **General information about ALIMTA**

546 Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those listed in patient information
547 leaflets. ALIMTA was prescribed for your medical condition.

548 This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ALIMTA. If you would like more
549 information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about
550 ALIMTA that is written for health professionals. You can also call 1-800-LILLY-RX (1-800-
551 545-5979) or visit www.ALIMTA.com.

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