

## ALIMTA<sup>®</sup> (pemetrexed for injection) Fact Sheet

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**What does ALIMTA treat?** In the United States, ALIMTA has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat the following:

- **Non-small cell lung cancer (first-line)** – in combination with cisplatin (another chemotherapy drug) for the initial treatment of advanced nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a specific type of NSCLC. ALIMTA is not indicated for patients who have a different type of NSCLC called squamous cell.
- **Non-small cell lung cancer (maintenance treatment)** – for the treatment of patients with advanced nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a specific type of NSCLC, to maintain the effect of initial treatment with chemotherapy and whose disease has not worsened. ALIMTA is not indicated for patients who have a different type of NSCLC called squamous cell.

Within the ALIMTA maintenance trial design, ALIMTA/cisplatin was not included as an induction therapy.

- **Non-small cell lung cancer (second-line)** – as a single agent (used alone) for the treatment of patients with advanced nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a specific type of NSCLC, after prior chemotherapy. ALIMTA is not indicated for patients who have a different type of NSCLC called squamous cell.
- **Malignant pleural mesothelioma** – as a treatment for malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM), which is a cancer that affects the inside lining of the chest cavity. ALIMTA is given with cisplatin, another anticancer medicine (chemotherapy), when surgery is not an option.

**How does ALIMTA work?** Based on in vitro studies, ALIMTA is an antifolate that blocks three separate enzyme targets important to the formation of basic building blocks by which cancer cells grow and divide.

**How is ALIMTA given?** ALIMTA should be administered only by a qualified healthcare professional. ALIMTA is mixed into a solution and given through a needle into a vein – that is, intravenous infusion (IV). As a part of treatment, patients will also receive additional medications, including vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, folic acid and corticosteroids.

**What are the most common side effects of ALIMTA?** The most common side effects of ALIMTA when given alone or in combination with cisplatin are:

- Stomach upset, including nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Low blood cell counts, including red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets
- Tiredness
- Mouth, throat or lip sores (stomatitis, pharyngitis)
- Loss of appetite
- Rash

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

**Important Safety Information for ALIMTA<sup>®</sup> (pemetrexed for injection)**

ALIMTA may not be appropriate for some patients. If you are allergic to ALIMTA, tell your doctor because you should not receive it. If you think you are pregnant, are planning to become pregnant, or are nursing, please tell your healthcare team. ALIMTA may harm your unborn or nursing baby. Your physician may advise you to use effective contraception (birth control) to prevent pregnancy while you are being treated with ALIMTA.

If you have liver or kidney problems, be sure to tell your doctor. Your dose of ALIMTA may have to be changed, or ALIMTA may not be right for you. There is a risk of side effects associated with ALIMTA therapy. ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function. It is very important to take folic acid and vitamin B12 prior to and during your treatment with ALIMTA to lower your chances of harmful side effects.

Your healthcare professional will prescribe a medicine called a corticosteroid, which lowers your chances of getting skin reactions with ALIMTA. Ask your healthcare professional before taking medicines called NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs used to treat pain or swelling). Tell your doctor if you are taking other medicines, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

The most common side effects of ALIMTA when given alone or in combination with cisplatin, another chemotherapy drug, are low blood cell counts (red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets); tiredness; stomach upset, including nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea; mouth, throat, or lip sores; loss of appetite; rash; and constipation.

Call your healthcare professional right away if you have a fever, chills, diarrhea, or mouth sores. These symptoms could mean you have an infection. These are not all of the side effects of ALIMTA. If you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away, be sure to talk with your healthcare professional.

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

**For more information about all of the side effects of ALIMTA, please talk with your healthcare team, see the Patient Prescribing Information and full Prescribing Information, visit [www.ALIMTA.com](http://www.ALIMTA.com), or call 1-800-545-5979.**

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**