PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

GEMNIL 200 mg powder for solution for infusion
GEMNIL 1000 mg powder for solution for infusion
Gemcitabine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start receiving this medicine.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. WHAT GEMNILIS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

GEMNIL belongs to a group of medicines called "cytotoxics". These medicines kill dividing cells, including cancer cells.

GEMNIL may be given alone or in combination with other anti-cancer medicines, depending on the type of cancer.

GEMNIL is used in the treatment of the following types of cancer:
- non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), alone or together with cisplatin.
- pancreatic cancer.
- breast cancer, together with paclitaxel.
- ovarian cancer, together with carboplatin.
- bladder cancer, together with cisplatin.

2. BEFORE YOU ARE GIVEN GEMNIL

You should not be given GEMNIL:
- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to gemcitabine or any of the other ingredients of GEMNIL.
- if you are breast-feeding.

Take special care with GEMNIL:
Before the first infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to evaluate if you have sufficient kidney and liver function.
Before each infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to evaluate if you have enough blood cells to receive GEMNIL.
Your doctor may decide to change the dose or delay treating you depending on your general condition and if your blood cell counts are too low.
Periodically you will have samples of your blood taken to evaluate your kidney and liver function.

Please tell your doctor if:
- you have, or have previously had liver disease, heart disease or vascular disease.

- you have recently had, or are going to have radiotherapy.
- you have been vaccinated recently.
- you develop breathing difficulties or feel very weak and are very pale (may be a sign of kidney failure).

Men are advised not to father a child during and up to 6 months following treatment with GEMNIL. If you would like to father a child during the treatment or in the 6 months following treatment, seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist. You may want to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting your therapy.

Taking other medicines
Please tell your doctor or hospital pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including vaccinations and medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant, or thinking about becoming pregnant, tell your doctor. The use of GEMNIL should be avoided during pregnancy. Your doctor will discuss with you the potential risk of taking GEMNIL during pregnancy.

If you are breast-feeding, tell your doctor.
You must discontinue breast-feeding during GEMNIL treatment.

Driving and using machines
GEMNIL may make you feel sleepy, particularly if you have consumed any alcohol. Do not drive a car or use machinery until you are sure that GEMNIL treatment has not made you feel sleepy.

Important information about some of the ingredients of GEMNIL
GEMNIL contains sodium, which must be taken into account by patients on a low salt diet. GEMNIL contains 3.5 mg (< 1 mmol) of sodium in each 200 mg vial and 17.5 mg (< 1 mmol) sodium in each 1000 mg vial.

3. HOW GEMNIL IS GIVEN

You will always receive GEMNIL by infusion into one of your veins. The infusion will last approximately 30 minutes.

How frequently and for how long you receive your GEMNIL infusion depends on the type of cancer that you are being treated for.

The usual dose of GEMNIL is 1000-1250 mg for every square metre of your body's surface area. Your height and weight are measured to work out the surface area of your body. Your doctor will use this body surface area to work out the right dose for you. This dosage may be adjusted, or treatment may be delayed depending on your blood cell counts and on your general condition.

A hospital pharmacist or doctor will have dissolved the GEMNIL powder before it is given to you.

If you have further questions on the use of this product ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, GEMNIL can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Frequencies of the observed side effects are defined as:
- very common: affects more than 1 user in 10
- common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100
- uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000
- rare: affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000
- very rare: affects less than 1 user in 10,000
- not known: frequency can't be estimated from the available data

You must contact your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:
- Fever or infection (common): if you have a temperature of 38ºC or greater, sweating or other signs of infection (since you might have less white blood cells than normal which is very common).
- Irregular heart rate (arrhythmia) (frequency not known).
- Pain, redness, swelling or sores in your mouth (common).
- Allergic reactions: if you develop skin rash (very common) / itching (common), or fever (very common).
- Tiredness, feeling faint, becoming easily breathless or if you look pale (since you might have less haemoglobin than normal which is very common).
- Bleeding from the gums, nose or mouth or any bleeding that would not stop, reddish or pinkish urine, unexpected bruising (since you might have less platelets than normal which is very common).
- Difficulty breathing (it is very common to have mild breathing difficulty soon after the GEMNIL infusion which soon passes; however uncommonly or rarely there can be more severe lung problems).

Side effects with GEMNIL may include:

Very common side effects
Low haemoglobin level (anaemia)
Low white blood cells
Low platelet count
Difficulty breathing
Vomiting
Nausea
Skin rash- allergic skin rash, frequently itchy
Hair loss
Liver problems: found through abnormal blood test results
Blood in urine
Abnormal urine tests: protein in urine
Flu like symptoms including fever
Oedema (swelling of ankles, fingers, feet, face)

Common side effects
Fever accompanied by low white blood cell count (febrile neutropaenia)
Anorexia (poor appetite)
Headache
Insomnia
Sleepiness
Cough
Runny nose
Constipation
Diarrhoea
Pain, redness, swelling or sores in the mouth
Itching
Sweating
Muscle pain
Back pain

Fever
Weakness
Chills

Uncommon side effects
Interstitial pneumonitis (scarring of the air sacs of the lung)
Spasm of the airways (wheeze)
Abnormal chest X ray/scan (scarring of the lungs)

Rare side effects
Heart attack (myocardial infarction)
Low blood pressure
Skin scaling, ulceration or blister formation
Injection site reactions

Very rare side effects
Increased platelet count
Anaphylactic reaction (severe hypersensitivity/ allergic reaction)
Sloughing of skin and severe skin blistering

Side effects with frequency not known
Irregular heart beat (arrhythmia)
Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (severe lung inflammation causing respiratory failure)
Radiation recall-(a skin rash like severe sunburn) which can occur on skin that has previously been exposed to radiotherapy
Fluid in the lungs
Radiation toxicity-scarring of the air sacs of the lung associated with radiation therapy
Ischaemic colitis (inflammation of the lining of the large bowel, caused by reduced blood supply)
Heart failure
Kidney failure
Gangrene of fingers or toes
Serious liver damage, including liver failure
Stroke

You might have any of these symptoms and/or conditions. You must tell your doctor as soon as possible when you start experiencing any of these side effects.

If you are concerned about any side effects, talk to your doctor.

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

5. HOW TO STORE GEMNIL

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and on the label after "EXP.".
The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Unopened vial: This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Reconstituted solution: The reconstituted solutions should be used immediately. When prepared as directed, chemical and physical in use-stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours after

reconstitution.Further dilution by a healthcare provider may be done. Reconstituted solutions of Gemcitabine should not be refrigerated, as crystallisation may occur.

This medicine is for single use only; any unused solution should be discarded under the local requirements.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What GEMNIL contains
The active substance is gemcitabine. Each vial contains 200 or 1000 mg of gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
The other ingredients are:

- Mannitol (E421)
- Sodium acetate
- Hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment)
- Sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)

What GEMNIL looks like and contents of the pack
GEMNIL is a white to off white lyophilized powder for solution for infusion in a vial. Each vial contains 200 or 1000 mg of gemcitabine. Each pack of GEMNIL contains 1 vial.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

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The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only:

Instructions for use, handling and disposal.

1. Use aseptic techniques during the reconstitution and any further dilution of gemcitabine for intravenous infusion administration.

2. Calculate the dose and the number of GEMNIL vials needed.

3. Sodium chloride for injection 0.9% without preservatives is the only diluent approved for the gemcitabine sterile powder reconstitution. Incompatibility with other drugs was not verified, thus, it is not recommended to mix gemcitabine with other drugs when reconstituted.

4. Reconstitute 200 mg vials with 5 ml of 9 mg/ml (0.9 %) sterile sodium chloride solution for injection, without preservative, or 25 ml sterile sodium chloride solution for injection, without preservative to the 1000 mg vial. Shake to dissolve. The total volume after reconstitution is 5.26 ml (200 mg vial) or 26.3 ml (1000 mg vial) respectively. This dilution yields a gemcitabine concentration of 38 mg/ml, which includes accounting for the displacement volume of the lyophilised powder. Further dilution with sterile sodium chloride 9 mg/ml (0.9%) solution for injection, without preservative may be done.

5. The reconstituted solutions of gemcitabine might be stored at room temperature (15°- 30°C) and administered within 24 hours. Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours after reconstitution. From a microbiological point of view, the reconstituted solutions should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at room temperature, unless reconstitution (and further dilution, if applicable) has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.
Solutions of reconstituted gemcitabine should not be refrigerated, as crystallisation may occur.

6. Parenteral medicinal products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discolouration prior to administration. If particulate matter is observed, do not administer.

7. Gemcitabine solutions are for single use only. Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

Preparation and administration precautions

The normal safety precautions for cytostatic agents must be observed when preparing and disposing of the infusion solution. Handling of the solution for infusion should be done in a safety box and protective coats and gloves should be used. If no safety box is available, the equipment should be supplemented with a mask and protective glasses.
In cases of skin contact with powder or diluted solution, the affected area should be immediately and carefully washed, with soap and water. In case of contact of mucous with concentrated or diluted solution, the mucous should be washed with water thoroughly and immediately. If the preparation comes into contact with the eyes, this may cause serious irritation. The eyes should be rinsed immediately and thoroughly with water. If there is lasting irritation, a doctor should be consulted. If the solution is spilled on the skin, rinse thoroughly with water.

Disposal
Any unused product should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.