FOLINIC ACID

Trade Name	Calcium Folinate (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	50mg/5mL 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	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 Epilepies. *Seminars in Ped Neurol.* 23:158-166.
Updated By	A Lynn, B Robertshawe December 2008
	A Lynn, B Robertshawe Oct 2012 (re-order profile)
	A Lynn, B Robertshawe March 2021 (review/update)
	A Lynn, B Robertshawe, P Shillito July 2022 (add in seizure indication)