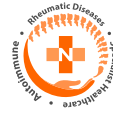


Methotrexate



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Methotrexate Use in Rheumatic Conditions

Methotrexate is a medication used to treat rheumatic conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. It is an immunosuppressive medication that helps to reduce inflammation and pain associated with these conditions. Methotrexate can be taken orally or by injection, and it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully when taking this medication.



What is Methotrexate?



Methotrexate is a type of medication called a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD). It works by suppressing the immune system, which can reduce inflammation in the body. Methotrexate can be used to treat a variety of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

Indications or Uses

Methotrexate is primarily used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. It can also be used to treat other autoimmune diseases, such as lupus and vasculitis. Methotrexate is often used when other treatments have failed, or in combination with other medications to improve treatment effectiveness.



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How to Take Methotrexate



Methotrexate can be taken orally or by injection. If you are taking methotrexate orally, it is important to take it exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Methotrexate is usually taken once a week, and it is important to take it at the same time each week. You may need to take folic acid supplements while taking methotrexate to reduce the risk of side effects. If you are taking methotrexate by injection, your doctor will show you how to inject the medication. Methotrexate injections are usually given once a week, and it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully.

Side Effects



Like all medications, methotrexate can cause side effects. Some common side effects of methotrexate include:



Headaches



Hair loss



Dizziness



Nausea and vomiting



Fatigue



Diarrhea



Stomach pain



Loss of appetite

Less common but more serious side effects of methotrexate include liver damage, lung problems, and infections. It is important to tell your doctor if you experience any side effects while taking methotrexate.

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Precautions

Methotrexate can be harmful to a developing fetus, so it is important to use effective birth control while taking this medication. Methotrexate can also interact with other medications, so it is important to tell your doctor about all medications you are taking, including over-the-counter medications and supplements.



Because methotrexate suppresses the immune system, it can increase the risk of infections. It is important to avoid contact with people who have contagious illnesses, and to tell your doctor if you develop any signs of infection, such as fever or cough.

Conclusion

Methotrexate is a medication used to treat rheumatic conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. It is an immunosuppressive medication that helps to reduce inflammation and pain associated with these conditions. Methotrexate can be taken orally or by injection, and it is important to follow your doctor's instructions carefully when taking this medication. Like all medications, methotrexate can cause side effects, and it is important to tell your doctor if you experience any side effects while taking this medication.

