



INTRAMUSCULAR METHOTREXATE IN THE TREATMENT OF EXTRA-UTERINE (ECTOPIC) PREGNANCY

What you need to know

Intramuscular Methotrexate is a drug used for the treatment of extra-uterine (ectopic) pregnancy. These are the potential side effects and the special precautions to take.

Potential side effects

After receiving Methotrexate, you may experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- Nausea (“gagging”), upset stomach or diarrhea
- Ulcers in the mouth
- Slight rashes on the skin
- Pains or mild abdominal cramps (may last for about 7 days after the injection)
- Slight vaginal bleeding (may last several days or up to a few weeks).

If you experience any of the following side effects, contact your doctor or go to the emergency room:

- Severe abdominal pain or very severe cramps
- Heavy vaginal bleeding requiring more than one sanitary napkin an hour, or for 12 hours or more
- Signs of infection (e.g. fever or chills, muscle pain, fast pulse).

Special precautions

Methotrexate is eliminated in body fluids such as blood, urine, stool and vomiting. To prevent others around you from coming into contact with the medication, observe the following precautions for **a period of 2 days after the injection of Methotrexate:**

- When going to the toilet, close the lid before flushing and flush twice. Keep the lid closed if you have pets.
- Dispose of soiled sanitary napkins in a separate plastic bag.
- Wear gloves to clean up all traces of blood, urine, stool or vomit (you or people around you).

However, you can hug or kiss your loved ones without any problem during this time.



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Note: Your next menstrual period should begin approximately 1 month after pregnancy hormones are again undetectable in your blood.

Actions to be avoided during treatment with Methotrexate, until all blood tests have been analyzed:

- ☑ Avoid taking vitamins with folic acid (they may prejudice the effects of Methotrexate).
- ☑ Avoid taking anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) unless directed by your doctor. They could have an impact on the effectiveness of Methotrexate. If you have discomfort, choose acetaminophen or Tylenol instead.
- ☑ Avoid sex for 2 weeks.
- ☑ Avoid getting pregnant during the next 3 months.
- ☑ Avoid direct sunlight for 2 weeks or use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher. Methotrexate may make your skin more vulnerable to sunburn.

Our mission

To maintain, improve, and restore the health and well-being of the Québec population by making accessible an array of integrated and quality health and social services, while contributing to the social and economic development of Québec.

Our vision

Accessible and efficient health care and services that adapt to the needs of Québécois.

Our goals

The CISSS de la Montérégie-Ouest achieves its goals through its innovative approaches and stands apart through:

- its exemplary offer of care and integrated services based on interdisciplinarity, accessibility, and adaptability to the needs of its population;
- its willingness to question and improve its professional, clinical, and administrative practices;
- its appreciation of its personnel and the implementation of human resource management practices;
- its strong relationships with its partners.

Our values

Our actions are guided by five equal and interconnected values: compassion, collaboration, commitment, confidence and consistency.