

PEMETREXED

Penmetrexed Disodium Injection 10 mg per mL (10 mL Fill)

Penmetrexed Disodium Injection 10 mg per mL (50 mL Fill)

Penmetrexed Disodium Injection 10 mg per mL (100 mL Fill)

R_x

Name and Strength of Active Substance(s)

Penmetrexed 100 mg/10 mL & Each mL contains 10 mg of penmetrexed (as penmetrexed disodium).
Penmetrexed 500 mg/50 mL & Each mL contains 10 mg of penmetrexed (as penmetrexed disodium).
Penmetrexed 1000 mg/100 mL & Each mL contains 10 mg of penmetrexed (as penmetrexed disodium).

Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Folic acid analogues, ATC code: L01BA04

Mechanism of action

Penmetrexed Injection (penmetrexed) is a multi-targeted anti-cancer antifolate agent that exerts its action by disrupting crucial folate-dependent metabolic processes essential for cell replication.

Pharmacodynamic effects

In vitro studies have shown that penmetrexed behaves as a multitargeted antifolate by inhibiting thymidylate synthase (TS), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), and glycinamide ribonucleotide formyl transferase (GARFT), which are key folate-dependent enzymes for the de novo biosynthesis of thymidine and purine nucleotides. Penmetrexed is transported into cells by both the reduced folate carrier and membrane folate binding protein transport systems. Once in the cell, penmetrexed is rapidly and efficiently converted to polyglutamate forms by the enzyme folypolyglutamate synthetase. The polyglutamate forms are retained in cells and are even more potent inhibitors of TS and GARFT. Polyglutamation is a time- and concentration-dependent process that occurs in tumour cells and, to a lesser extent, in normal tissues. Polyglutamated metabolites have an increased intracellular half-life resulting in prolonged drug action in malignant cells.

Clinical efficacy

Mesothelioma:

EMPHACIS, a multicentre, randomised, single-blind phase 3 study of penmetrexed plus cisplatin versus cisplatin in chemo-naïve patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma, has shown that patients treated with penmetrexed and cisplatin had a clinically meaningful 2.8-month median survival advantage over patients receiving cisplatin alone.

During the study, low-dose folic acid and Vitamin B12 supplementation was introduced to patients' therapy to reduce toxicity. The primary analysis of this study was performed on the population of all patients randomly assigned to a treatment arm who received study drug (randomised and treated). A subgroup analysis was performed on patients who received folic acid and Vitamin B12 supplementation during the entire course of study therapy (fully supplemented). The results of these analyses of efficacy are summarised in the table below:

Efficacy of Penmetrexed plus cisplatin vs. cisplatin in Malignant pleural mesothelioma

	Randomized and treated patients		Fully supplemented patients	
Efficacy parameter	Penmetrexed / cisplatin (N = 226)	Cisplatin (N = 222)	Penmetrexeds/ cisplatin (N = 168)	Cisplatin (N = 163)
Median overall survival (months) (95 % CI)	12.1 (10.0 - 14.4)	9.3 (7.8 - 10.7)	13.3 (11.4 - 14.9)	10.0 (8.4 - 11.9)
Log Rank p-value*	0.020		0.051	
Median time to tumour progression (months) (95 % CI)	5.7 (4.9 - 6.5)	3.9 (2.8 - 4.4)	6.1 (5.3 - 7.0)	3.9 (2.8 - 4.5)
Log Rank p-value*	0.001		0.008	
Time to treatment failure (months) (95 % CI)	4.5 (3.9 - 4.9)	2.7 (2.1 - 2.9)	4.7 (4.3 - 5.6)	2.7 (2.2 - 3.1)
Log Rank p-value*	0.001		0.001	
Overall response rate** (95 % CI)	41.3 % (34.8 - 48.1)	16.7 % (12.0 - 22.2)	45.5 % (37.8 - 53.4)	19.6 % (13.8 - 26.6)
Fisher's exact p-value*	< 0.001		< 0.001	

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval

* p-value refers to comparison between arms.

** In the penmetrexed/cisplatin arm, randomized and treated (N = 225) and fully supplemented (N = 167)

A statistically significant improvement of the clinically relevant symptoms (pain and dyspnoea) associated with malignant pleural mesothelioma in the penmetrexed/cisplatin arm (212 patients) versus the cisplatin arm alone (218 patients) was demonstrated using the Lung Cancer Symptom Scale. Statistically significant differences in pulmonary function tests were also observed. The separation between the treatment arms was achieved by improvement in lung function in the penmetrexed/cisplatin arm and deterioration of lung function over time in the control arm.

There are limited data in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma treated with penmetrexed alone. Penmetrexed at a dose of 500 mg/m² was studied as a single-agent in 64 chemo-naïve patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma. The overall response rate was 14.1 %.

NSCLC, second-line treatment:

A multicentre, randomised, open-label phase 3 study of penmetrexed versus docetaxel in patients with locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC after prior chemotherapy has shown median survival times of 8.3 months for patients treated with penmetrexed (Intent To Treat population n = 283) and 7.9 months for patients treated with docetaxel (ITT n = 288). Prior chemotherapy did not include penmetrexed. An analysis of the impact of NSCLC histology on the treatment effect on overall survival was in favour of penmetrexed versus docetaxel for other than predominantly squamous histologies (n = 389, 9.3 versus 8.0 months, adjusted HR = 0.78, 95% CI = 0.61-1.00, p = 0.047) and was in favour of docetaxel for squamous cell carcinoma histology (n = 172, 6.2 versus 7.4 months, adjusted HR = 1.56, 95% CI = 1.08-2.26, p = 0.018). There were no clinically relevant differences observed for the safety profile of penmetrexed within the histology subgroups.

Limited clinical data from a separate randomized, Phase 3, controlled trial, suggest that efficacy data (overall survival, progression free survival) for penmetrexed are similar between patients previously pretreated with docetaxel (n = 41) and patients who did not receive previous docetaxel treatment (n = 540).

Efficacy of penmetrexed vs docetaxel in NSCLC - ITT population

	Penmetrexed	Docetaxel
Survival Time (months)	(n = 283)	(n = 288)
~ Median (m)	8.3	7.9 (6.3 - 9.2)
~ 95 % CI for median	(7.0 - 9.4)	
~ HR	0.99	
~ 95 % CI for HR	(.82 - 1.20)	
~ Non-inferiority p-value (HR)	.226	
Progression free survival (months)	(n = 283)	(n = 288)
~ Median	2.9	2.9
~ HR (95 % CI)	0.97 (.82 - 1.16)	
Time to treatment failure (TTTF – months)	(n = 283)	(n = 288)
~ Median	2.3	2.1
~ HR (95 % CI)	0.84 (.71 - .997)	
Response (n: qualified for response)	(n = 264)	(n = 274)
~ Response rate (%) (95 % CI)	9.1 (5.9 - 13.2)	8.8 (5.7 - 12.8)
~ Stable disease (%)	45.8	46.4

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; HR = hazard ratio; ITT = intent to treat; n = total population size.

NSCLC, first-line treatment:

A multicentre, randomised, open-label, Phase 3 study of penmetrexed plus cisplatin versus gemcitabine plus cisplatin in chemo-naïve patients with locally advanced or metastatic (Stage IIb or IV) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) showed that penmetrexed plus cisplatin (Intent-To-Treat [ITT] population n = 862) met its primary endpoint and showed similar clinical efficacy as gemcitabine plus cisplatin (ITT n = 863) in overall survival (adjusted hazard ratio 0.94; 95% CI = 0.84-1.05). All patients included in this study had an ECOG performance status 0 or 1.

The primary efficacy analysis was based on the ITT population. Sensitivity analyses of main efficacy endpoints were also assessed on the Protocol Qualified (PQ) population. The efficacy analyses using PQ population are consistent with the analyses for the ITT population and support the non-inferiority of AC versus GC.

Progression free survival (PFS) and overall response rate were similar between treatment arms: median PFS was 4.8 months for penmetrexed plus cisplatin versus 5.1 months for gemcitabine plus cisplatin (adjusted hazard ratio 1.04; 95% CI = 0.94-1.15), and overall response rate was 30.6% (95% CI = 27.3-33.9) for penmetrexed plus cisplatin versus 28.2% (95% CI = 25.0-31.4) for gemcitabine plus cisplatin. PFS data were partially confirmed by an independent review (400/1725 patients were randomly selected for review).

The analysis of the impact of NSCLC histology on overall survival demonstrated clinically relevant differences in survival according to histology, see table below.

Efficacy of penmetrexed + cisplatin vs. gemcitabine + cisplatin in first-line non-small cell lung cancer – ITT population and histology subgroups.

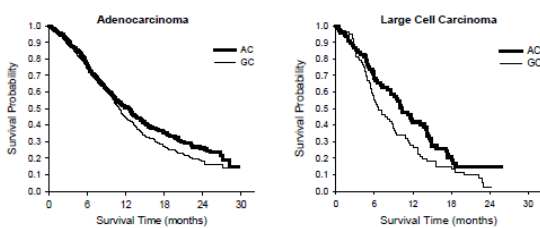
ITT population and histology subgroups	Median overall survival in months (95% CI)				Adjusted hazard ratio (HR) (95% CI)	Superiority p-value
	Pemetrexed + cisplatin		Gemcitabine + cisplatin			
ITT population (N = 1725)	10.3 (9.8 – 11.2)	N=862	10.3 (9.6 – 10.9)	N=863	0.94* (0.84 – 1.05)	0.259
Adenocarcinoma (N=647)	12.6 (10.7 – 13.6)	N=436	10.9 (10.2 – 11.9)	N=411	0.84 (0.71–0.99)	0.033
Large cell (N=153)	10.4 (8.6 – 14.1)	N=76	6.7 (5.5 – 9.0)	N=77	0.67 (0.48–0.96)	0.027
Other (N=252)	8.6 (6.8 – 10.2)	N=106	9.2 (8.1 – 10.6)	N=146	1.08 (0.81–1.45)	0.586
Squamous cell (N=473)	9.4 (8.4 – 10.2)	N=244	10.8 (9.5 – 12.1)	N=229	1.23 (1.00–1.51)	0.050

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; ITT = intent-to-treat; N = total population size.

* Statistically significant for noninferiority, with the entire confidence interval for HR well below the 1.17645 noninferiority margin (p < 0.001).

<0.001).

Kaplan Meier plots of overall survival by histology



There were no clinically relevant differences observed for the safety profile of penmetrexed plus cisplatin within the histology subgroups.

Patients treated with penmetrexed and cisplatin required fewer transfusions (16.4% versus 28.9%, p<0.001), red blood cell transfusions (16.1% versus 27.3%, p<0.001) and platelet transfusions (1.8% versus 4.5%, p=0.002). Patients also required lower administration of erythropoietin/darbopoietin (10.4% versus 18.1%, p<0.001), G-CSF/GM-CSF (3.1% versus 6.1%, p=0.004), and iron preparations (4.3% versus 7.0%, p=0.021).

NSCLC, maintenance treatment:

JMEN

A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 study (JMEN), compared the efficacy and safety of maintenance treatment with penmetrexed plus best supportive care (BSC) (n = 441) with that of placebo plus BSC (n = 222) in patients with locally advanced (Stage IIIB) or metastatic (Stage IV) Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) who did not progress after 4 cycles of first line doublet therapy containing Cisplatin or Carboplatin in combination with Gemcitabine, Paclitaxel, or Docetaxel. First line doublet therapy containing Penmetrexed was not included. All patients included in this study had an ECOG performance status 0 or 1. Patients received maintenance treatment until disease progression. Efficacy and safety were measured from the time of randomisation after completion of first line (induction) therapy. Patients received a median of 5 cycles of maintenance treatment with penmetrexed and 3.5 cycles of placebo. A total of 213 patients (48.3%) completed ≥ 6 cycles and a total of 103 patients (23.4%) completed ≥ 10 cycles of treatment with penmetrexed.

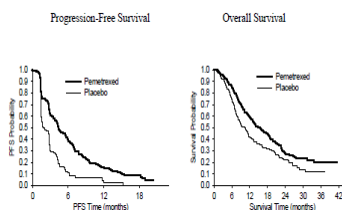
The study met its primary endpoint and showed a statistically significant improvement in PFS in the penmetrexed arm over the placebo arm (n = 581, independently reviewed population; median of 4.0 months and 2.0 months, respectively) (hazard ratio = 0.60, 95% CI = 0.49-0.73, p < 0.0001). The independent review of patient scans confirmed the findings of the investigator assessment of PFS. The median OS for the overall population (n = 663) was 13.4 months for the penmetrexed arm and 10.6 months for the placebo arm, hazard ratio = 0.79 (95% CI = 0.65-0.95, p = 0.0192).

Consistent with other penmetrexed studies, a difference in efficacy according to NSCLC histology was observed in JMEN. For patients with NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology (n = 430, independently reviewed population) median PFS was 4.4 months for the penmetrexed arm and 1.8 months for the placebo arm, hazard ratio = 0.47 (95% CI = 0.37-0.60, p = 0.00001). The median OS for patients with NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology (n = 481) was 15.5 months for the penmetrexed arm and 10.3 months for the placebo arm, hazard ratio = 0.70 (95% CI = 0.56-0.88, p = 0.002). Including the induction phase the median OS for patients with NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology was 18.6 months for the penmetrexed arm and 13.6 months for the placebo arm, hazard ratio = 0.71 (95% CI = 0.56-0.88, p = 0.002).

The PFS and OS results in patients with squamous cell histology suggested no advantage for penmetrexed over placebo.

There were no clinically relevant differences observed for the safety profile of penmetrexed within the histology subgroups.

JMEN: Kaplan Meier plots of progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival penmetrexed versus placebo in patients with NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology



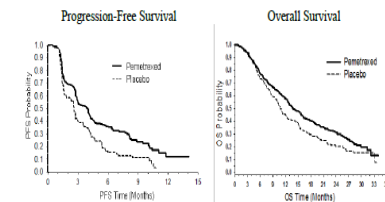
PARAMOUNT

A multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 study (PARAMOUNT), compared the efficacy and safety of continuation maintenance treatment with Penmetrexed plus BSC (n = 359) with that of placebo plus BSC (n = 180) in patients with locally advanced (Stage IIIB) or metastatic (Stage IV) NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology who did not progress after 4 cycles of first line doublet therapy of Penmetrexed in combination with cisplatin. Of the 939 patients treated with Penmetrexed plus cisplatin induction, 539 patients were randomised to maintenance treatment with penmetrexed or placebo. Of the randomised patients, 44.9% had a complete/partial response and 51.9% had a response of stable disease to Penmetrexed plus cisplatin induction. Patients randomised to maintenance treatment were required to have an ECOG performance status 0 or 1. The median time from the start of Penmetrexed plus cisplatin induction therapy to the start of maintenance treatment was 2.96 months on both the penmetrexed arm and the placebo arm. Randomised patients received maintenance treatment until disease progression. Efficacy and safety were measured from the time of randomisation after completion of first line (induction) therapy. Patients received a median of 4 cycles of maintenance treatment with Penmetrexed and 4 cycles of placebo. A total of 169 patients (47.1%) completed ≥ 6 cycles maintenance treatment with Penmetrexed, representing at least 10 total cycles of Penmetrexed.

The study met its primary endpoint and showed a statistically significant improvement in PFS in the Penmetrexed arm over the placebo arm (n = 472, independently reviewed population; median of 3.9 months and 2.6 months, respectively) (hazard ratio = 0.64, 95% CI = 0.51-0.81, p = 0.0002). The independent review of patient scans confirmed the findings of the investigator assessment of PFS. For randomised patients, as measured from the start of Penmetrexed plus cisplatin first line induction treatment, the median investigator-assessed PFS was 6.9 months for the Penmetrexed arm and 5.6 months for the placebo arm (hazard ratio = 0.59 95% CI = 0.47-0.74).

Following Penmetrexed plus cisplatin induction (4 cycles), treatment with Penmetrexed was statistically superior to placebo for OS (median 13.9 months versus 11.0 months, hazard ratio = 0.78, 95%CI= 0.64-0.96, p=0.0195). At the time of this final survival analysis, 28.7% of patients were alive or lost to follow up on the Penmetrexed arm versus 21.7% on the placebo arm. The relative treatment effect of Penmetrexed was internally consistent across subgroups (including disease stage, induction response, ECOG PS, smoking status, gender, histology and age) and similar to that observed in the unadjusted OS and PFS analyses. The 1 year and 2 year survival rates for patients on Penmetrexed were 58% and 32% respectively, compared to 45% and 21% for patients on placebo. From the start of Penmetrexed plus cisplatin first line induction treatment, the median OS of patients was 16.9 months for the Penmetrexed arm and 14.0 months for the placebo arm (hazard ratio= 0.78, 95% CI= 0.64-0.96). The percentage of patients that received post study treatment was 64.3% for Penmetrexed and 71.7% for placebo.

PARAMOUNT: Kaplan Meier plot of progression-free survival (PFS) and Overall Survival (OS) for continuation maintenance versus placebo in patients with NSCLC other than predominantly squamous cell histology (measured from randomisation)



Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetic properties of penmetrexed following single-agent administration have been evaluated in 426 cancer patients with a variety of solid tumours at doses ranging from 0.2 to 838 mg/m² infused over a 10-minute period. Penmetrexed has a steady-state volume of distribution of 9 l/m². In vitro studies indicate that penmetrexed is approximately 81 % bound to plasma proteins. Binding was not notably affected by varying degrees of renal impairment. Penmetrexed undergoes limited hepatic metabolism. Penmetrexed is primarily eliminated in the urine, with 70 % to 90 % of the administered dose being recovered unchanged in urine within the first 24 hours following administration. In vitro studies indicate that penmetrexed is actively secreted by OAT3 (organic anion transporter). Penmetrexed total systemic clearance is 91.8 ml/min and the elimination half-life from plasma is 3.5 hours in patients with normal renal function (creatinine clearance of 90 ml/min). Between patient variability in clearance is moderate at 19.3 %. Penmetrexed total systemic exposure (AUC) and maximum plasma concentration increase proportionally with dose. The pharmacokinetics of penmetrexed are consistent over multiple treatment cycles.

The pharmacokinetic properties of penmetrexed are not influenced by concurrently administered cisplatin. Oral folic acid and intramuscular Vitamin B12 supplementation do not affect the pharmacokinetics of penmetrexed.

Indication

Malignant pleural mesothelioma

Penmetrexed Injection in combination with cisplatin is indicated for the treatment of chemotherapy naïve patients with unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Non-small cell lung cancer

Penmetrexed Injection in combination with cisplatin is indicated for the first line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer other than predominantly squamous cell histology.

Penmetrexed Injection is indicated as monotherapy for the maintenance treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer other than predominantly squamous cell histology in patients whose disease has not progressed immediately following platinum-based chemotherapy.

Penmetrexed Injection is indicated as monotherapy for the second line treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer other than predominantly squamous cell histology.

Recommended Dosage

Penmetrexed Injection must only be administered under the supervision of a physician qualified in the use of anti-cancer chemotherapy.

Penmetrexed Injection in combination with cisplatin

The recommended dose of Penmetrexed Injection is 500 mg/m² of body surface area (BSA) administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle. The recommended dose of cisplatin is 75 mg/m² BSA infused over two hours approximately 30 minutes after completion of the penmetrexed infusion on the first day of each 21-day cycle. Patients must receive adequate anti-emetic treatment and appropriate hydration prior to and/or after receiving cisplatin (see also cisplatin Summary of Product Characteristics for specific dosing advice).

Penmetrexed Injection as single agent

In patients treated for non-small cell lung cancer after prior chemotherapy, the recommended dose of penmetrexed is 500 mg/m² BSA administered as an intravenous infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle.

Premedication regimen

To reduce the incidence and severity of skin reactions, a corticosteroid should be given the day prior to, on the day of, and the day after penmetrexed administration. The corticosteroid should be equivalent to 4 mg of dexamethasone administered orally twice a day.

To reduce toxicity, patients treated with penmetrexed must also receive vitamin supplementation. Patients must take oral folic acid or a multivitamin containing folic acid (350 to 1000 micrograms) on a daily basis. At least five doses of folic acid must be taken during the seven days preceding the first dose of penmetrexed, and dosing must continue during the full course of therapy and for 21 days after the last dose of penmetrexed. Patients must also receive an intramuscular injection of Vitamin B12 (1000 micrograms) in the week preceding the first dose of penmetrexed and once every three cycles thereafter. Subsequent Vitamin B12 injections may be given on the same day as penmetrexed.

Monitoring

Patients receiving penmetrexed should be monitored before each dose with a complete blood count, including a differential white cell count (WCC) and platelet count. Prior to each chemotherapy administration blood chemistry tests should be collected to evaluate renal and hepatic function. Before the start of any cycle of chemotherapy, patients are required to have the following: absolute neutrophil count (ANC) should be ≥ 1500 cells/mm³ and platelets should be ≥ 100,000 cells/mm³.

Creatinine clearance should be ≥ 45 ml/min.

The total bilirubin should be ≤ 1.5 times upper limit of normal. Alkaline phosphatase (AP), aspartate aminotransferase (AST or SGOT) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT or SGPT) should be ≤ 3 times upper limit of normal. Alkaline phosphatase, AST and ALT ≤ 5 times upper limit of normal is acceptable if liver has tumour involvement.

Dose adjustments

Dose adjustments at the start of a subsequent cycle should be based on nadir haematologic counts or maximum non-haematologic toxicity from the preceding cycle of therapy. Treatment may be delayed to allow sufficient time for recovery. Upon recovery patients should be retreated using the guidelines in **Tables 1, 2 and 3**, which are applicable for penmetrexed used as a single agent or in combination with cisplatin.

Table 1 - Dose modification table for Penmetrexed (as single agent or in combination) and cisplatin – Haematologic toxicities		
Nadir ANC < 500 /mm ³ and nadir platelets ≥ 50,000 /mm ³	75 % of previous dose (both penmetrexed and cisplatin)	
Nadir platelets < 50,000 /mm ³ regardless of nadir ANC	75 % of previous dose (both penmetrexed and cisplatin)	
Nadir platelets < 50,000 /mm ³ with bleeding* regardless of nadir ANC	50 % of previous dose (both penmetrexed and cisplatin)	

* These criteria meet the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998) definition of ≥CTC Grade 2 bleeding.

If patients develop non-haematologic toxicities ≥ Grade 3 (excluding neurotoxicity), penmetrexed should be withheld until resolution to less than or equal to the patient's pre-therapy value. Treatment should be resumed according to the guidelines in **Table 2**.

Table 2 - Dose modification table for Penmetrexed (as single agent or in combination) and cisplatin– Non-haematologic toxicities* ^a		
	Dose of Penmetrexed (mg/m ²)	Dose for cisplatin (mg/m ²)
Any Grade 3 or 4 toxicities except mucositis	75 % of previous dose	75 % of previous dose
Any diarrhoea requiring hospitalisation (irrespective of grade) or grade 3 or 4 diarrhoea.	75 % of previous dose	75 % of previous dose
Grade 3 or 4 mucositis	50 % of previous dose	100 % of previous dose

* National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998)

^a Excluding neurotoxicity

In the event of neurotoxicity, the recommended dose adjustment for penmetrexed and cisplatin is documented in **Table 3**. Patients should discontinue therapy if Grade 3 or 4 neurotoxicity is observed.

Table 3 - Dose modification table for Penmetrexed (as single agent or in combination) and cisplatin – Neurotoxicity		
CTC* Grade	Dose of Penmetrexed (mg/m ²)	Dose for cisplatin (mg/m ²)
0 – 1	100 % of previous dose	100 % of previous dose
2	100 % of previous dose	50 % of previous dose

* National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (CTC v2.0; NCI 1998)

Treatment with Penmetrexed Injection should be discontinued if a patient experiences any haematologic or non-haematologic Grade 3 or 4 toxicity after 2 dose reductions or immediately if Grade 3 or 4 neurotoxicity is observed.

Elderly: In clinical studies, there has been no indication that patients 65 years of age or older are at increased risk of adverse events compared to patients younger than 65 years old. No dose reductions other than those recommended for all patients are necessary.

Paediatric population

There is no relevant use of Penmetrexed Injection in the paediatric population in malignant pleural mesothelioma and non-small cell lung cancer.

Patients with renal impairment: (Standard Cockcroft and Gault formula or Glomerular Filtration Rate measured Tc99m-DTPA serum clearance method): Penmetrexed is primarily eliminated unchanged by renal excretion. In clinical studies, patients with creatinine clearance of ≥ 45 ml/min required no dose adjustments other than those recommended for all patients. There are insufficient data on the use of penmetrexed in patients with creatinine clearance below 45 ml/min; therefore, the use of penmetrexed is not recommended.

Patients with hepatic impairment: No relationships between AST (SGOT), ALT (SGPT), or total bilirubin and penmetrexed pharmacokinetics were identified. However, patients with hepatic impairment such as bilirubin > 1.5 times the upper limit of normal and/or aminotransferase > 3.0 times the upper limit of normal (hepatic metastases absent) or > 5.0 times the upper limit of normal (hepatic metastases present) have not been specifically studied.

Method of administration:

For Precautions to be taken before handling or administering Penmetrexed Injection.

Penmetrexed Injection, a clear, colorless to yellow or yellow-green colored solution, once reconstituted; should be administered as an intravenous

infusion over 10 minutes on the first day of each 21-day cycle. For instructions on reconstitution and dilution of Pemetrexed Injection before administration.

Warnings and Precautions

Pemetrexed can suppress bone marrow function as manifested by neutropenia, thrombocytopenia and anaemia (or pancytopenia). Myelosuppression is usually the dose-limiting toxicity. Patients should be monitored for myelosuppression during therapy and pemetrexed should not be given to patients until absolute neutrophil count (ANC) returns to ≥ 1500 cells/mm3 and platelet count returns to ≥ 100,000 cells/mm3. Dose reductions for subsequent cycles are based on nadir ANC, platelet count and maximum non-haematologic toxicity seen from the previous cycle.

Less toxicity and reduction in Grade 3/4 haematologic and non-haematologic toxicities such as neutropenia, febrile neutropenia and infection with Grade 3/4 neutropenia were reported when pre-treatment with folic acid and Vitamin B12 was administered. Therefore, all patients treated with pemetrexed must be instructed to take folic acid and Vitamin B12 as a prophylactic measure to reduce treatment-related toxicity.

Skin reactions have been reported in patients not pre-treated with a corticosteroid. Pre-treatment with dexamethasone (or equivalent) can reduce the incidence and severity of skin reactions.

An insufficient number of patients has been studied with creatinine clearance of below 45 ml/min. Therefore, the use of pemetrexed in patients with creatinine clearance of < 45 ml/min is not recommended.

Patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance from 45 to 79 ml/min) should avoid taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen, and aspirin (> 1.3 g daily) for 2 days before, on the day of, and 2 days following pemetrexed administration. In patients with mild to moderate renal insufficiency eligible for pemetrexed therapy NSAIDs with long elimination half-lives should be interrupted for at least 5 days prior to, on the day of, and at least 2 days following pemetrexed administration.

Serious renal events, including acute renal failure, have been reported with pemetrexed alone or in association with other chemotherapeutic agents. Many of the patients in whom these occurred had underlying risk factors for the development of renal events including dehydration or pre-existing hypertension or diabetes.

The effect of third space fluid, such as pleural effusion or ascites, on pemetrexed is not fully defined. A phase 2 study of pemetrexed in 31 solid tumour patients with stable third space fluid demonstrated no difference in pemetrexed dose normalized plasma concentrations or clearance compared to patients without third space fluid collections. Thus, drainage of third space fluid collection prior to pemetrexed treatment should be considered, but may not be necessary.

Due to the gastrointestinal toxicity of pemetrexed given in combination with cisplatin, severe dehydration has been observed. Therefore, patients should receive adequate antiemetic treatment and appropriate hydration prior to and/or after receiving treatment.

Serious cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction and cerebrovascular events have been uncommonly reported during clinical studies with pemetrexed, usually when given in combination with another cytotoxic agent. Most of the patients in whom these events have been observed had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors.

Immuno depressed status is common in cancer patients. As a result, concomitant use of live attenuated vaccines is not recommended.

Pemetrexed can have genetically damaging effects. Sexually mature males are advised not to father a child during the treatment and up to 6 months thereafter. Contraceptive measures or abstinence are recommended. Owing to the possibility of pemetrexed treatment causing irreversible infertility, men are advised to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting treatment.

Women of childbearing potential must use effective contraception during treatment with pemetrexed.

Cases of radiation pneumonitis have been reported in patients treated with radiation either prior, during or subsequent to their pemetrexed therapy. Particular attention should be paid to these patients and caution exercised with use of other radio sensitising agents.

Cases of radiation recall have been reported in patients who received radiotherapy weeks or years previously.

This medicinal product contains less than 1mmol (11 mg) of sodium per vial and is therefore considered essentially "sodium-free".

Statement on Usage during Pregnancy and Lactation

Contraception in males and females

Women of childbearing potential must use effective contraception during treatment with pemetrexed. Pemetrexed can have genetically damaging effects. Sexually mature males are advised not to father a child during the treatment and up to 6 months thereafter. Contraceptive measures or abstinence are recommended.

Pregnancy

There are no data from the use of pemetrexed in pregnant women but pemetrexed, like other anti-metabolites, is suspected to cause serious birth defects when administered during pregnancy. Animal studies have shown reproductive toxicity. Pemetrexed should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary, after a careful consideration of the needs of the mother and the risk for the foetus.

Breastfeeding

It is not known whether pemetrexed is excreted in human milk and adverse reactions on the suckling child cannot be excluded. Breast-feeding must be discontinued during pemetrexed therapy.

Fertility

Owing to the possibility of pemetrexed treatment causing irreversible infertility, men are advised to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting treatment.

Adverse Effects / Undesirable Effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported undesirable effects related to pemetrexed, whether used as monotherapy or in combination, are bone marrow suppression manifested as anaemia, neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia; and gastrointestinal toxicities, manifested as anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation, pharyngitis, mucositis, and stomatitis. Other undesirable effects include renal toxicities, increased aminotransferases, alopecia, fatigue, dehydration, rash, infection/sepsis and neuropathy. Rarely seen events include Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The table below provides the frequency and severity of undesirable effects that have been reported in > 5 % of 168 patients with mesothelioma who were randomised to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed and 163 patients with mesothelioma randomised to receive single agent cisplatin. In both treatment arms, these chemonaive patients were fully supplemented with folic acid and Vitamin B₁₂.

Adverse reactions

Frequency estimate: Very common (≥1/10), Common (≥1/100 and <1/10), Uncommon (≥1/1000 and <1/100), Rare (≥1/10,000 and <1/1000), Very rare (<1/10,000) and not known (cannot be estimated from available data-spontaneous reports).

Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

ystem Organ class	Frequency	Event*	Pemetrexed/cisplatin (N = 168)		Cisplatin (N = 163)	
			All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)	All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very common	Neutrophils/ Granulocytes decreased	56.0	23.2	13.5	3.1
		Leukocytes decreased	53.0	14.9	16.6	0.6
		Haemoglobin decreased	26.2	4.2	10.4	0.0
		Platelets decreased	23.2	5.4	8.6	0.0
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Common	Dehydration	6.5	4.2	0.6	0.6
Nervous system disorders	Very common	Neuropathy- Sensory	10.1	0.0	9.8	0.6
	Common	Taste disturbance	7.7	0.0***	6.1	0.0***
Eye disorders	Common	Conjunctivitis	5.4	0.0	0.6	0.0
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	Diarrhoea	16.7	3.6	8.0	0.0
		Vomiting	56.5	10.7	49.7	4.3
		Stomatitis/ Pharyngitis	23.2	3.0	6.1	0.0
		Nausea	82.1	11.9	76.7	5.5
		Anorexia	20.2	1.2	14.1	0.6
		Constipation	11.9	0.6	7.4	0.6
		Dyspepsia	5.4	0.6	0.6	0.0
		Rash	16.1	0.6	4.9	0.0
	Common	Alopecia	11.3	0.0***	5.5	0.0***
Renal and urinary disorders	Very common	Creatinine elevation	10.7	0.6	9.8	1.2
		Creatinine clearance decreased**	16.1	0.6	17.8	1.8
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Fatigue	47.6	10.1	42.3	9.2

* Refer to National Cancer Institute CTC version 2 for each grade of toxicity except the term "creatinine clearance decreased"

** which is derived from the term "renal/genitourinary other".

*** According to National Cancer Institute CTC (v2.0; NCI 1998), taste disturbance and alopecia should only be reported as Grade 1 or 2.

For the purpose of this table a cut off of 5 % was used for inclusion of all events where the reporter considered a possible relationship to pemetrexed and cisplatin.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicities that were reported in ≥ 1 % and < 5 % of the patients that were randomly assigned to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed include: renal failure, infection, pyrexia, febrile neutropenia, increased AST, ALT, and GGT, urticaria and chest pain.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicities that were reported in < 1 % of the patients that were randomly assigned to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed include arrhythmia and motor neuropathy.

The table below provides the frequency and severity of undesirable effects that have been reported in > 5 % of 265 patients randomly assigned to receive single agent pemetrexed with folic acid and Vitamin B12 supplementation and 276 patients randomly assigned to receive single agent docetaxel. All patients were diagnosed with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer and received prior chemotherapy.

System organ class	Frequency	Event*	Pemetrexed N = 265		Docetaxel N = 276	
			All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)	All Grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very Common	Neutrophils/ Granulocytes decreased	10.9	5.3	45.3	40.2
		Leukocytes decreased	12.1	4.2	34.1	27.2
		Haemoglobin decreased	19.2	4.2	22.1	4.3
		Platelets decreased	8.3	1.9	1.1	0.4
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very Common	Diarrhoea	12.8	0.4	24.3	2.5
		Vomiting	16.2	1.5	12.0	1.1
		Stomatitis/Pharyngitis	14.7	1.1	17.4	1.1
		Nausea	30.9	2.6	16.7	1.8
		Anorexia	21.9	1.9	23.9	2.5
		Constipation	5.7	0.0	4.0	0.0
	Common	SGPT (ALT) elevation	7.9	1.9	1.4	0.0
		SGOT (AST) elevation	6.8	1.1	0.7	0.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Very Common	Rash/ desquamation	14.0	0.0	6.2	0.0
		Pruritus	6.8	0.4	1.8	0.0
	Common	Alopecia	6.4	0.4**	37.7	2.2**
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very Common	Fatigue	34.0	5.3	35.9	5.4
	Common	Fever	8.3	0.0	7.6	0.0

*Refer to National Cancer Institute CTC version 2 for each grade of toxicity.

**According to National Cancer Institute CTC (v2.0; NCI 1998), alopecia should only be reported as Grade 1 or 2.

For the purpose of this table a cut off of 5 % was used for inclusion of all events where the reporter considered a possible relationship to pemetrexed.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicities that were reported in ≥ 1 % and < 5 % of the patients that were randomly assigned to pemetrexed include: infection without neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, allergic reaction / hypersensitivity, increased creatinine, motor neuropathy, sensory neuropathy, erythema multiforme, and abdominal pain.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicities that were reported in < 1 % of the patients that were randomly assigned to pemetrexed include supraventricular arrhythmias.

Clinically relevant Grade 3 and Grade 4 laboratory toxicities were similar between integrated Phase 2 results from three single agent pemetrexed

studies (n = 164) and the Phase 3 single agent pemetrexed study described above, with the exception of neutropenia (12.8 % versus 5.3 %, respectively) and alanine aminotransferase elevation (15.2 % versus 1.9 %, respectively). These differences were likely due to differences in the patient population, since the Phase 2 studies included both chemo-naïve and heavily pre-treated breast cancer patients with pre-existing liver metastases and/or abnormal baseline liver function tests.

The table below provides the frequency and severity of undesirable effects considered possibly related to study drug that have been reported in >5% of 839 patients with NSCLC who were randomized to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed and 830 patients with NSCLC who were randomized to receive cisplatin and gemcitabine. All patients received study therapy as initial treatment for locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC and patients in both treatment groups were fully supplemented with folic acid and Vitamin B₁₂.

System organ class	Frequency	Event**	Pemetrexed/cisplatin (N = 839)		Gemcitabine/cisplatin (N = 830)	
			All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)	All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very common	Hemoglobin decreased	33.0*	5.6*	45.7*	9.9*
		Neutrophils/ Granulocytes decreased	29.0*	15.1*	38.4*	26.7*
		Leukocytes Decreased	17.8	4.8*	20.6	7.6*
		Platelets Decreased	10.1*	4.1*	26.6*	12.7*
Nervous system disorders	Common	Neuropathy-sensory	8.5*	0.0*	12.4*	0.6*
		Taste disturbance	8.1	0.0***	8.9	0.0***
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	Nausea	56.1	7.2*	53.4	3.9*
		Vomiting	39.7	6.1	35.5	6.1
		Anorexia	26.6	2.4*	24.2	0.7*
		Constipation	21.0	0.8	19.5	0.4
		Stomatitis/ Pharyngitis	13.5	0.8	12.4	0.1
		Diarrhoea without colostomy	12.4	1.3	12.8	1.6
	Common	Dyspepsia/ Heartburn	5.2	0.1	5.9	0.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Very common	Alopecia	11.9*	0***	21.4*	0.5***
	Common	Rash/desquamation	6.6	0.1	8.0	0.5
Renal and urinary disorders	Very common	Creatinine elevation	10.1*	0.8	6.9*	0.5
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Fatigue	42.7	6.7	44.9	4.9

*P-values <0.05 comparing pemetrexed/cisplatin to gemcitabine/cisplatin, using Fisher Exact test.

**Refer to National Cancer Institute CTC (v2.0; NCI 1998) for each Grade of Toxicity.

***According to National Cancer Institute CTC (v2.0; NCI 1998), taste disturbance and alopecia should only be reported as Grade 1 or 2.

For the purpose of this table, a cut-off of 5% was used for inclusion of all events where the reporter considered a possible relationship to pemetrexed and cisplatin.

Clinically relevant toxicity that was reported in ≥ 1% and ≤ 5% of the patients that were randomly assigned to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed include: AST increase, ALT increase, infection, febrile neutropenia, renal failure, pyrexia, dehydration, conjunctivitis, and creatinine clearance decrease. Clinically relevant toxicity that was reported in < 1% of the patients that were randomly assigned to receive cisplatin and pemetrexed include: GGT increase, chest pain, arrhythmia, and motor neuropathy.

Clinically relevant toxicities with respect to gender were similar to the overall population in patients receiving pemetrexed plus cisplatin.

The table below provides the frequency and severity of undesirable effects considered possibly related to study drug that have been reported in > 5% of 800 patients randomly assigned to receive single agent pemetrexed and 402 patients randomly assigned to receive placebo in the single-agent pemetrexed maintenance (JMEN: N= 663) and continuation pemetrexed maintenance (PARAMOUNT: N=539) studies. All patients were diagnosed with Stage IIIB or IV NSCLC and had received prior platinum-based chemotherapy. Patients in both study arms were fully supplemented with folic acid and Vitamin B₁₂.

System organ class	Frequency*	Event**	Pemetrexed*** (N =800)		Placebo*** N =402)	
			All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)	All grades toxicity (%)	Grade 3 - 4 toxicity (%)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very common Common	Hemoglobin decreased	18.0	4.5	5.2	0.5
		Leukocytes decreased	5.8	1.9	0.7	0.2
		Neutrophils decreased	8.4	4.4	0.2	0.0
Nervous system disorders	Common	Neuropathy- sensory	7.4	0.6	5.0	0.2
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	Nausea	17.3	0.8	4.0	0.2
		Anorexia	12.8	1.1	3.2	0.0
	Common	Vomiting	8.4	0.3	1.5	0.0
		Mucositis/stomatitis	6.8	0.8	1.7	0.0
Hepatobiliary disorders	Common	ALT (SGPT) elevation	6.5	0.1	2.2	0.0
		AST (SGOT) elevation	5.9	0.0	1.7	0.0
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Common	Rash/desquamation	8.1	0.1	3.7	0.0
General disorders and administration site disorders	Very common Common	Fatigue	24.1	5.3	10.9	0.7
		Pain	7.6	0.9	4.5	0.0
		Edema	5.6	0.0	1.5	0.0
Renal Disorders	Common	Renal disorders****	7.6	0.9	1.7	0.0

Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Event; NCI = National Cancer Institute; SGOT = serum glutamic oxaloacetic aminotransferase; SGPT = serum glutamic pyruvic aminotransferase.

* Definition of frequency terms: Very common - ≥ 10%; Common - > 5% and < 10%. For the purpose of this table, a cutoff of 5% was used for inclusion of all events where the reporter considered a possible relationship to pemetrexed.

** Refer to NCI CTCAE Criteria (Version 3.0; NCI 2003) for each grade of toxicity. The reporting rates shown are according to CTCAE version 3.0.

*** Integrated adverse reactions table combines the results of the JMEN pemetrexed maintenance (N=663) and PARAMOUNT continuation pemetrexed maintenance (N=539) studies.

**** Combined term includes increased serum/blood creatinine, decreased glomerular filtration rate, renal failure and renal/genitourinary- other.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicity of any grade that was reported in ≥ 1% and ≤ 5% of the patients that were randomly assigned to pemetrexed include: febrile neutropenia, infection, decreased platelets, diarrhoea, constipation, alopecia, pruritis/itching, fever (in the absence of neutropenia), ocular surface disease (including conjunctivitis), increased lacrimation, dizziness and motor neuropathy.

Clinically relevant CTC toxicity that was reported in < 1% of the patients that were randomly assigned to pemetrexed include: allergic reaction/ hypersensitivity, erythema multiforme, supraventricular arrhythmia and pulmonary embolism.

Safety was assessed for patients who were randomised to receive pemetrexed (N=800). The incidence of adverse reactions was evaluated for patients who received ≤ 6 cycles of pemetrexed maintenance (N=519), and compared to patients who received > 6 cycles of pemetrexed (N=281). Increases in adverse reactions (all grades) were observed with longer exposure. A significant increase in the incidence of possibly study-drug-related Grade 3/4 neutropenia was observed with longer exposure to pemetrexed (≤5 cycles: 3.3%, > 6cycles: 6.4%; p=0.046). No statistically significant differences in any other individual Grade 3/4/5 adverse reactions were seen with longer exposure.

Serious cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events, including myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebrovascular accident and transient ischaemic attack have been uncommonly reported during clinical studies with pemetrexed, usually when given in combination with another cytotoxic agent. Most of the patients in whom these events have been observed had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors.

Rare cases of hepatitis, potentially serious, have been reported during clinical studies with pemetrexed.

Pancytopenia has been uncommonly reported during clinical trials with pemetrexed.

In clinical trials, cases of colitis (including intestinal and rectal bleeding, sometimes fatal, intestinal perforation, intestinal necrosis and typhlitis) have been reported uncommonly in patients treated with pemetrexed.

In clinical trials, cases of interstitial pneumonitis with respiratory insufficiency, sometimes fatal, have been reported uncommonly in patients treated with pemetrexed.

Uncommon cases of oedema have been reported in patients treated with pemetrexed.

Oesophagitis/ radiation oesophagitis has been uncommonly reported during clinical trials with pemetrexed.

Sepsis, sometimes fatal, has been commonly reported during clinical trials with pemetrexed.

During post marketing surveillance, the following adverse reactions have been reported in patients treated with pemetrexed:

Uncommon cases of acute renal failure have been reported with pemetrexed alone or in association with other chemotherapeutic agents.

Uncommon cases of radiation pneumonitis have been reported in patients treated with radiation either prior, during or subsequent to their pemetrexed therapy.

Rare cases of radiation recall have been reported in patients who have received radiotherapy previously.

Uncommon cases of peripheral ischaemia leading sometimes to extremity necrosis have been reported.

Rare cases of bullous conditions have been reported including Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis which in some cases were fatal.

Rarely, immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia has been reported in patients treated with pemetrexed.

Rare cases of anaphylactic shock have been reported.

Overdose and Treatment

Reported symptoms of overdose include neutropenia, anaemia, thrombocytopenia, mucositis, sensory polyneuropathy and rash. Anticipated complications of overdose include bone marrow