

Calcium Folate Sandoz

Consumer Medicine Information Leaflet

Calcium Folate Sandoz
folinic acid (as calcium folinate)

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Calcium Folate Sandoz. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Calcium Folate Sandoz against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet.
You may need to read it again.

What Calcium Folate Sandoz is used for

Calcium Folate Sandoz contains folinic acid (as calcium folinate). It is used in two main situations:

1. When your body does not have enough folic acid.

This occurs in conditions such as megaloblastic anaemia, where the level of red blood cells and iron in the blood is too low. Megaloblastic anaemia can happen during pregnancy or infancy, or due to liver disease, malnutrition, or a reduced ability to absorb folic acid from the diet.

2. As an antidote or "rescue" therapy to reduce the toxic side effects of some medications such as methotrexate.

Calcium Folate Sandoz may be used for the management of other conditions that are not mentioned above. Your doctor will be able to tell you about the specific condition for which you have been prescribed Calcium Folate Sandoz.

Calcium Folate Sandoz is not addictive

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Before you are given Calcium Folate Sandoz

When you must not be given it

You must not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz if you have or have had an allergy to Calcium Folate Sandoz, folic acid, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction to Calcium Folate Sandoz may include:

- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin.

You must not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz if you have pernicious anaemia or any other megaloblastic anaemias which are due to a lack of Vitamin B12.

You must not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack. If you are given this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

You must not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If you are not sure whether you should be given Calcium Folate Sandoz or Tablets, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Before your are given it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if
1. you have any allergies to:

- any other medicines
- any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes

2. you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant

3. you are breast-feeding or plan to breast feed

4. you have or have had any medical conditions especially the following:

- fits or convulsions (epilepsy)
- pernicious anaemia
- vitamin B12 deficiency
- cancer which has spread to other parts of the body such as the brain

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you are given Calcium Folate Sandoz

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Calcium Folate Sandoz may interfere with each other. These include:

- some drugs used to treat epilepsy (fits), including phenytoin, phenobarbitone and primidone
- fluorouracil (5-FU), a medicine used to treat some cancers.

These medicines may be affected by Calcium Folate Sandoz or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

How Calcium Folate Sandoz is given

How much is given

Your doctor will decide which strength of Calcium Folate Sandoz you need and how much you need to take. This will depend on any previous treatment you have had and any current treatment you are taking.

How it is given

Calcium Folate Sandoz can be given in three ways:

- as a slow injection into a vein
- as a continuous infusion (intravenous drip) into a vein
- as a deep injection into a large muscle.

Calcium Folate Sandoz must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

If you are being given Calcium Folate Sandoz as methotrexate “rescue therapy” treatment will usually be started 24 hours after treatment with methotrexate. You should not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz at the same time as cancer drugs such as methotrexate, as it may stop them from working properly.

You must not be given Calcium Folate Sandoz as an injection into your spine.

During your treatment your doctor may also give you other fluids, and take blood samples from you.

If you are given too much (overdose)

As Calcium Folate Sandoz is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive too much.

However, if you experience any side effects after being given Calcium Folate Sandoz, tell your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department at your nearest hospital.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of a Calcium Folate Sandoz overdose include the side effects listed below in the ‘Side Effects’ section, but are usually of a more severe nature.

Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns

While you are being given Calcium Folate Sandoz

Things you must do

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any concerns before, during or after administration of Calcium Folate Sandoz.

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given Calcium Folate Sandoz

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are being given Calcium Folate Sandoz

Side effects

Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Calcium Folate Sandoz.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

If the following effects occur you should report them to your doctor immediately.

- Seizures, fits or fainting
- Allergies: Some people develop an allergy to Calcium Folate Sandoz; this may appear as an itchy rash or high temperature after the injection. If you experience this, or a swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, and/or difficulty in breathing, you should inform the doctor or nurse immediately.

The following effects normally disappear after a few days, however, if they persist, you should contact your doctor:

- Nausea and vomiting may occur. If it persists you should consult your doctor.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor. Some side effects may only be seen by your doctor.

Even after you have finished being treated with Calcium Folate Sandoz, you should tell your doctor if you notice any side effects listed in this section.

After being given Calcium Folate Sandoz

Storage

Calcium Folate Sandoz will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injections should be kept in a refrigerator where the temperature stays between 2-8° C and protected from light.

Product description

What it looks like

Calcium Folate Sandoz is a clear colourless to slight yellow solution.

Pack sizes

Glass Vials pack of 1

30mg in 3mL (sterile)
50mg in 5mL (sterile)
100mg in 10mL (sterile)
200mg in 20mL (sterile)
350mg in 35mL (sterile)
500mg in 50mL (sterile)
1000mg in 100mL (sterile)

Ingredients

Active ingredient

- Folinic acid (as Calcium folinate)

Other ingredients

- Sodium chloride
- Water for injection

Manufacturer

Calcium Folate Sandoz is made in Germany.

Distributor

Calcium Folate Sandoz is distributed in New Zealand by:

Novartis New Zealand Limited
PO Box 99102
Newmarket
Auckland 1149
Tel: 0800 354 335

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