

ALIMTA Frequently Asked Questions



Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about ALIMTA. Talk to your doctor if you need more information.

Question:

What is advanced nonsquamous NSCLC?

Answer:

There are two main types of lung cancer: non-small cell lung cancer (also known as NSCLC) and small cell lung cancer (SCLC). Within NSCLC, there are three main histological subtypes. The subtypes are classified by the type of cells that make up the tumor. Your doctor may have told you that you have a type of cancer called “adenocarcinoma,” or maybe it was called “large cell carcinoma.” Both of these fall under a larger category called advanced “nonsquamous” non-small cell lung cancer. This is the type of cancer that ALIMTA therapy is approved for. It is not approved for another type of advanced non-small cell lung cancer called “squamous cell.”

Question:

What is “histology” and why does it matter?

Answer:

Histology is a classification of the cellular composition of a tumor. Within NSCLC, the major classifications are nonsquamous (including adenocarcinoma and large cell carcinoma) and squamous cell carcinoma. Histology is important because research has shown that there is a link between histology and the effectiveness of ALIMTA in NSCLC.

ALIMTA is not appropriate for patients who have squamous cell carcinoma.

ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function, which may cause low blood cell counts.

Question:

How will I know what my histology is?

Answer:

Your doctor will let you know what your histology is based on your pathology report.

Question:

When should I contact my doctor right away?

Answer:

Call your doctor right away if you have a fever (temperature above 100.4°F), chills, diarrhea, or mouth sores. These symptoms could mean you have an infection, which may be severe and could lead to death.

For more information about all of the side effects of ALIMTA, please see the Important Safety Information on pages 3-5, the Patient Prescribing Information, and Prescribing Information; visit www.ALIMTA.com; or call 1-800-545-5979.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/MedWatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

ALIMTA®
pemetrexed
for injection



100 mg and 500 mg vials

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ALIMTA is approved by the FDA as a single agent (used alone) for the treatment of patients with advanced nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a specific type of NSCLC, after prior chemotherapy.

ALIMTA is not appropriate for people who have a different type of NSCLC called squamous cell.

ALIMTA is a treatment for malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM), which is a cancer that affects the inside lining of the chest cavity. ALIMTA is given with cisplatin, another anticancer medicine (chemotherapy), when surgery is not an option.

ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function, which may cause low blood cell counts.

Select Important Safety Information

If you know you are allergic to ALIMTA (pemetrexed for injection), tell your doctor immediately because you should not receive it.

Prior to treatment with ALIMTA and on specific days throughout treatment, you must take folic acid by mouth, and you will receive vitamin B₁₂ injections to help reduce the severity of certain side effects. Your doctor will also prescribe a medicine called a corticosteroid, which you must take for 3 days during each treatment with ALIMTA.

ALIMTA Frequently Asked Questions



Question:

What factors can impact my outcome or chance of lung cancer recurrence?

Answer:

The possible outcome and treatment options for people with NSCLC depend upon the following:

- The stage of the cancer when it is found. This is determined by the size of the tumor and whether it is in the lung only or has spread to other places in the body
- Your type of lung cancer, which includes the histology of the NSCLC
- Whether certain symptoms are present, such as coughing or trouble breathing
- Your general health

Question:

How much does ALIMTA cost?

Answer:

The cost of ALIMTA therapy varies by insurance plan. Your healthcare team or insurance company will have more information for you.

Question:

Will my insurance cover ALIMTA?

Answer:

Your healthcare team or insurance company can help you determine your coverage. For insurance verification assistance, you can also contact Lilly PatientOne at 1-866-4PatOne (1-866-472-8663).

Question:

I don't have health insurance. Is there any financial assistance for ALIMTA?

Answer:

Lilly PatientOne is a reimbursement and patient assistance program that may be able to help. Call the Lilly PatientOne hotline at 1-866-4PatOne (1-866-472-8663).

References

1. What Is Lung Cancer? Cancer Support Community website. <http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/MainMenu/About-Cancer/Types-of-Cancer/Lung/Understanding-Lung-Cancer.html>. Accessed June 2, 2014.
2. Lung Cancer (Non-Small Cell). American Cancer Society website. <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/lungcancer-non-smallcell/detailedguide/non-small-cell-lung-cancer-what-is-non-small-cell-lung-cancer>. Accessed June 17, 2014.
3. Scagliotti GV, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2008;26(21):3543-3551.
4. ALIMTA (pemetrexed for injection) [package insert]. Indianapolis, IN: Eli Lilly and Company; 2013.
5. General Information About Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). National Cancer Institute website. http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/non-small-cell-lung/healthprofessional#Section_47. Accessed June 2, 2014.

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ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function, which may cause low blood cell counts.

Select Important Safety Information

ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function, which may cause low blood cell counts. This may make you feel tired, appear pale, become short of breath, and may give you a greater chance for infection and/or bleeding. If you have a fever (temperature above 100.4°F) or severe weakness or tiredness, call your doctor right away.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver or kidney problems in the past. Your dose of ALIMTA may have to be changed, or ALIMTA may not be right for you.



Important Safety Information for ALIMTA® (pemetrexed for injection)

What is the most important information that I should know about ALIMTA?

ALIMTA can suppress bone marrow function, which may cause low blood cell counts.

ALIMTA may not be appropriate for some patients.

If you are allergic to ALIMTA, tell your doctor because you should not receive it.

If you have liver or kidney problems, be sure to tell your doctor. Your dose of ALIMTA may have to be changed, or ALIMTA may not be right for you.

It is very important to take the following medications prior to and during your treatment with ALIMTA to lower your chances of harmful side effects:

- You must take folic acid every day by mouth beginning 7 days before your first dose of ALIMTA. You must keep taking folic acid every day during the time you are being treated with ALIMTA, and every day for 21 days after you receive your last dose of ALIMTA.
- Your doctor will give you vitamin B₁₂ injections while you are getting treatment with ALIMTA. You will get your first vitamin B₁₂ injection one week before your first dose of ALIMTA, and then about every 9 weeks during treatment.
- Your doctor will prescribe a medicine called a “corticosteroid” that you must take the day before, the day of, and the day after each treatment with ALIMTA to reduce rash.

You will have regular blood tests before and during your treatment with ALIMTA. Your doctor may adjust your dose of ALIMTA or delay your treatment based on the results of your blood test and on your general condition.

What should I tell my doctor before receiving ALIMTA?

If you think you are pregnant, are planning to become pregnant, or are nursing, please tell your healthcare team. ALIMTA may harm your unborn or nursing baby. Your physician may advise you to use effective contraception (birth control) to prevent pregnancy while you are being treated with ALIMTA.

Tell your doctor if you are taking other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ALIMTA and other medicines may affect each other, causing serious side effects. Especially, tell your doctor if you are taking medicines called “nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs” (NSAIDs) for pain or swelling.

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Important Safety Information for ALIMTA[®] (pemetrexed for injection) (continued)

What are the possible side effects of ALIMTA?

Most patients taking ALIMTA will have side effects. Sometimes it is not always possible to tell whether ALIMTA, another medicine, or the cancer itself is causing these side effects.

Call your doctor right away if you have a fever, chills, diarrhea, or mouth sores. These symptoms could mean you have an infection, which may be severe and could lead to death.

The most common side effects of ALIMTA when given alone or in combination with cisplatin are:

- **Stomach upset, including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or constipation.** You can obtain medicines to help control some of these symptoms. Call your doctor if you get any of these symptoms.
- **Low blood cell counts:**
 - **Low red blood cells.** Low red blood cells may make you feel tired, get tired easily, appear pale, and become short of breath.
 - **Low white blood cells.** Low white blood cells may give you a greater chance for infection. If you have a fever (temperature above 100.4°F) or other signs of infection, call your doctor right away.
 - **Low platelets.** Low platelets give you a greater chance for bleeding. Your doctor will do blood tests to check your blood counts before and during treatment with ALIMTA.
- **Tiredness.** You may feel tired or weak for a few days after your ALIMTA treatments. If you have severe weakness or tiredness, call your doctor.
- **Redness or sores in your mouth, throat, on your lips, or in the tube that connects your throat and stomach (esophagus).** You may get redness or sores in your mouth, throat, on your lips, or in your esophagus (stomatitis, pharyngitis, esophagitis) or you may feel pain or have difficulty when drinking or swallowing food. These symptoms may happen a few days after ALIMTA treatment. Talk with your doctor if you get any of these symptoms.
- **Loss of appetite.** You may lose your appetite and lose weight during your treatment. Talk to your doctor if this is a problem for you.
- **Rash.** You may get a rash or itching during treatment. These reactions usually appear between treatments with ALIMTA and usually go away before the next treatment. Skin reactions or rashes that include blistering or peeling may be severe and could lead to death. Call your doctor if you have any of these symptoms.

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Important Safety Information for ALIMTA[®] (pemetrexed for injection) (continued)

Talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about any side effect that bothers you or that doesn't go away.

These are not all the side effects of ALIMTA. For more information, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

How is ALIMTA given?

ALIMTA is slowly infused (injected) into a vein. The injection or infusion will last about 10 minutes. You will usually receive ALIMTA once every 21 days (3 weeks).

For more information about all of the side effects of ALIMTA, please talk with your healthcare team, see the [Patient Prescribing Information](#) and [Prescribing Information](#) in document, visit www.ALIMTA.com, or call 1-800-545-5979.

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