Alimta (pemetrexed)
Effective Date: 10/22/13
Date Developed: 9/3/13 by Albert Reeves MD
Last Approval Date: 1/26/16, 1/24/17, 1/23/18

Pharmaceutical Category: Antineoplastic Agent, Antimetabolite; Antineoplastic Agent, Antimetabolite (Antifolate)

Authorization Criteria: Treatment of unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma (in combination with cisplatin); treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-squamous non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC; as initial treatment in combination with cisplatin, as single-agent maintenance treatment after 4 cycles of initial platinum-based double therapy, and single-agent treatment after prior chemotherapy)

Dosing: Details concerning dosing in combination regimens should also be obtained.

Note: Start vitamin supplements 1 week before initial dose: Folic acid 400-1000 mcg daily orally (begin 7 days prior to treatment initiation; continue daily during treatment and for 21 days after last pemetrexed dose) and vitamin B12 1000 mcg I.M. 7 days prior to treatment initiation and then every 3 cycles. Give dexamethasone 4 mg orally twice daily for 3 days, beginning the day before treatment to minimize cutaneous reactions.

New treatment cycles should not begin unless ANC ≥1500/mm³, platelets ≥100,000/mm³, and Cl Cr ≥45 mL/minute. Adjust dose with hepatic or renal failure or with toxicity (see product literature)

Malignant pleural mesothelioma: I.V.: 500 mg/m² on day 1 of each 21-day cycle (in combination with cisplatin)
Non-small cell lung cancer: I.V:

Initial treatment: 500 mg/m² on day 1 of each 21-day cycle (in combination with cisplatin)

Maintenance or second-line treatment: 500 mg/m² on day 1 of each 21-day cycle (as a single-agent)

Precautions: marrow suppression, renal toxicity, hepatic toxicity, interstitial pneumonitis, anaphylaxis, vomiting,

Note: Hazardous agent; use appropriate precautions for handling and disposal (NIOSH, 2012).

Drug Interactions: NSAID (decreased clearance); others involve potentiation of immunosuppressive effects when combined with other immunosuppressants.
References


Revision History:
Date Approved by P&T Committee: 10/22/13
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Date Reviewed/No Updates: 1/23/18 by C. Sanders, MD; R. Sterling, MD
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