

Gemcitabine (jem-CY-ta-bean)

Also Known As: Gemzar®

How It Is Given:

Intravenously (by vein)

Early Side Effects (beginning within one week) Can Include:

- Pain and irritation along the vein where the drug is given. This can last as long as the drug goes in.
- Flu-like symptoms. These include fever of 100.4°F or less, chills, muscle aches, headache. These symptoms are rare, but can begin four to 24 hours after each dose.
- Mild nausea and vomiting.
- Fatigue.
- A mild skin rash, but it is uncommon.

Late Side Effects (beginning after one week) Can Include:

- A temporary decrease in blood cell counts one to two weeks after each treatment. White blood cells and platelets are affected.
- Loss of appetite.
- Thinning of hair. Your hair will grow back when your treatment is done.
- Swelling in your legs. This is not common.
- Diarrhea. This is not common.
- Constipation. This is not common.
- Mouth sores. This is not common.

Special Points:

- This medicine can have a bad effect on an unborn child. Ask your doctor or nurse about the type of birth control you should use. Tell your doctor immediately if you think you or your partner might be pregnant.
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, and vitamin E can cause bleeding problems. Do not take medicine that has them unless your doctor says it is okay. Your nurse will give you a fact card that tells you what drugs you cannot take and what you can use instead.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any other medicines, including:
 - medicines that do and do not require a prescription.
 - herbal remedies.
 - vitamins.

– dietary supplements.

Some of these may change the way this drug works. Also let your doctor know of any change in your medicines.

Call Your Doctor or Nurse If You:

- Have a fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.
- Have swelling in your legs.
- Develop mouth sores.
- Have any sign of bleeding. This includes:
 - black bowel movements.
 - bruising.
 - faint red rash.
 - other signs of bleeding.
- Have any unexpected, unexplained problems.
- Have any questions or concerns.

The information on this card is selective and does not cover all possible side effects; others may occur. Please report any problems to your doctor.