Fluorouracil (Systemic)

Brand Names: US
Adrucil

Brand Names: Canada
Fluorouracil Injection

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat colorectal cancer.
- It is used to treat breast cancer.
- It is used to treat stomach cancer.
- It is used to treat pancreatic cancer.
- It may be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If your child has any of these health problems: An infection, low blood cell counts, or poor diet.

If your child is breast-feeding a baby:

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug.
This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child’s drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of his/her drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?**

- Tell all of your child’s health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child’s doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

- This drug may lower the ability of your child’s bone marrow to make blood cells that your child’s body needs. This can lead to very bad and sometimes deadly bleeding problems or infections. Talk with your child’s doctor.

- Your child may have more chance of getting infections. Have your child wash hands often. Avoid crowds and people with infections, colds, or flu.

- Your child may bleed more easily. Make sure your child is careful and avoids injury. Be sure your child has a soft toothbrush.

- If your child has an upset stomach or diarrhea, is throwing up, or is not hungry, talk with the doctor. There may be ways to lower these side effects.

- If your child has diarrhea or throws up, talk with your child’s doctor. You will need to make sure your child avoids getting dehydrated and electrolyte problems.

- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.

- The chance of severe and sometimes deadly side effects is raised in patients who do not have the enzyme dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) in the body. These include mouth irritation or sores, diarrhea, low white blood cell counts, or nerve problems.

- This drug may cause heart problems like heart attack, heart failure, and an abnormal heartbeat. These effects may be more common in people who have had heart disease before. Talk with the doctor.
• If your child is taking warfarin, talk with the doctor. Your child may need to have blood work checked more closely while taking it with this drug.

• Talk with the doctor before your child gets any vaccines. Use of some vaccines with this drug may either raise the chance of very bad infection or make the vaccine not work as well.

• Your child may get sunburned more easily. Avoid lots of sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and dress your child in clothing and eyewear that protects him/her from the sun.

• This drug may affect fertility. Fertility problems may lead to not being able to get pregnant or father a child. Talk with the doctor.

If your child is or may be sexually active:

• Have your child use birth control to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 3 months after stopping this drug.

• If your child is a male and has sex with a female who could get pregnant, they must prevent pregnancy during treatment and for 3 months after his last dose.

• If your child is a male and his sex partner gets pregnant while he takes this drug or within 3 months after his last dose, call the doctor right away.

If your child is pregnant:

• This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.

• If your child gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 3 months after her last dose, call the doctor right away.

What are some side effects that I need to call my child’s doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child’s doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

• Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered,
or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.

- Signs of bleeding like throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds; coughing up blood; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; vaginal bleeding that is not normal; bruises without a reason or that get bigger; or any bleeding that is very bad or that you cannot stop.

- Chest pain or pressure.

- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.

- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.

- Dizziness or passing out.

- Black, tarry, or bloody stools.

- Throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds.

- Very bad belly pain.

- Very upset stomach or throwing up.

- Severe diarrhea.

- Very bad mouth irritation.

- Change in eyesight.

- If bright lights bother your child’s eyes.

- Redness or irritation of the palms of hands or soles of feet.

- Swelling in the feet or hands.

- Feeling confused.

- Change in balance.

- Feeling very sleepy.

- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
• Not able to control eye movements.
• Headache.
• This drug may irritate the vein. If the drug leaks from the vein, it may also cause irritation around that area. Tell your child’s nurse if your child has any redness, burning, pain, swelling, or leaking of fluid where the drug is going into your child’s body.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**
All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

• Upset stomach or throwing up.
• Not hungry.
• Diarrhea.
• Mouth irritation or mouth sores.
• Hair loss.
• Change in nails.
• Dry skin.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child’s doctor. Call your child’s doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

**How is this drug best given?**
Give this drug as ordered by your child’s doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

• It is given as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
• It may be given as a shot into a vein.

**What do I do if my child misses a dose?**
• Call your child’s doctor to find out what to do.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

• If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

General drug facts

• If your child’s symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child’s doctor.

• Do not share your child’s drug with others and do not give anyone else’s drug to your child.

• Keep a list of all your child’s drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child’s doctor.

• Talk with your child’s doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.

• Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.

• Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

• Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child’s doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

• If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or
approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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