

- Gemcitabine (as Gemcitabine hydrochloride) 38 mg per**
 1 ml Gemcitabine 1g/26.3ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials
 | 1 vial [PoM] £160.30 (Hospital only)
 Gemcitabine 2g/52.6ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials |
 1 vial [PoM] £320.63 (Hospital only)
 Gemcitabine 200mg/5.26ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials
 | 1 vial [PoM] £32.09 (Hospital only)
- Gemcitabine (as Gemcitabine hydrochloride) 100 mg per**
 1 ml Gemcitabine 2g/20ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials
 | 1 vial [PoM] £26.86 (Hospital only)
 Gemcitabine 1g/10ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials |
 1 vial [PoM] £13.09 (Hospital only)
 Gemcitabine 200mg/2ml concentrate for solution for infusion vials |
 1 vial [PoM] £6.40 (Hospital only)

Powder for solution for infusion▶ **Gemcitabine (Non-proprietary)****Gemcitabine (as Gemcitabine hydrochloride)**

200 mg Gemcitabine 200mg powder for solution for infusion vials |
 1 vial [PoM] £32.00-£32.55 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £32.09

Gemcitabine (as Gemcitabine hydrochloride) 1 gram Gemcitabine
 1g powder for solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £162.00-
 £162.76 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £155.67

Gemcitabine (as Gemcitabine hydrochloride) 2 gram Gemcitabine
 2g powder for solution for infusion vials | 1 vial [PoM] £324.00
 (Hospital only) | 1 vial [PoM] £413.51

Mercaptopurine

02-Dec-2019

(6-Mercaptopurine)● **INDICATIONS AND DOSE**

Severe acute Crohn's disease | Maintenance of remission of Crohn's disease | Ulcerative colitis

▶ **BY MOUTH**

▶ **Adult:** 1–1.5 mg/kg daily, some patients may respond to lower doses

Acute leukaemias | Chronic myeloid leukaemia

▶ **BY MOUTH USING TABLETS**

▶ **Adult:** Initially 2.5 mg/kg daily, adjusted according to response, alternatively initially 50–75 mg/m² daily, adjusted according to response

▶ **BY MOUTH USING ORAL SUSPENSION**

▶ **Adult:** Initially 25–75 mg/m² daily, adjusted according to response

DOSE ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO INTERACTIONS

▶ Manufacturer advises reduce dose to one-quarter of the usual dose with concurrent use of allopurinol.

DOSE EQUIVALENCE AND CONVERSION

▶ Mercaptopurine tablets and *Xaluprine*[®] oral suspension are **not** bioequivalent, haematological monitoring is advised when switching formulations.

- **UNLICENSED USE** Not licensed for use in severe ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**SAFE PRACTICE**

Mercaptopurine has been confused with mercaptamine; care must be taken to ensure the correct drug is prescribed and dispensed.

RISKS OF INCORRECT DOSING OF ORAL ANTI-CANCER MEDICINES
 See Cytotoxic drugs p. 938.

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Absent thiopurine methyltransferase activity
- **CAUTIONS** Reduced thiopurine methyltransferase activity
- CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION**
- ▶ Thiopurine methyltransferase The enzyme thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) metabolises thiopurine drugs (azathioprine, mercaptopurine, tioguanine); the risk of myelosuppression is increased in patients with reduced activity of the enzyme, particularly for the few individuals in whom TPMT activity is undetectable. Patients with

absent TPMT activity should not receive thiopurine drugs; those with reduced TPMT activity may be treated under specialist supervision.

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: mercaptopurine

● **SIDE-EFFECTS**

- ▶ **Common or very common** Anaemia · appetite decreased · bone marrow depression · diarrhoea · hepatic disorders · hepatotoxicity (more common at high doses) · leucopenia · nausea · oral disorders · pancreatitis · thrombocytopenia · vomiting
- ▶ **Uncommon** Arthralgia · fever · increased risk of infection · neutropenia · rash
- ▶ **Rare or very rare** Alopecia · face oedema · intestinal ulcer · neoplasms · oligozoospermia
- ▶ **Frequency not known** Photosensitivity reaction

▶ **CONCEPTION AND CONTRACEPTION** Contraceptive advice required, see *Pregnancy and reproductive function* in Cytotoxic drugs p. 938.

● **PREGNANCY** Avoid (teratogenic). See also *Pregnancy and reproductive function* in Cytotoxic drugs p. 938.

● **BREAST FEEDING** Discontinue breast-feeding.

● **HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT** Manufacturer advises caution (risk of increased exposure).

Dose adjustments Manufacturer advises consider dose reduction.

● **RENAL IMPAIRMENT**

Dose adjustments Reduce dose.

● **PRE-TREATMENT SCREENING** Consider measuring thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) activity before starting mercaptopurine therapy.

● **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS** Monitor liver function.

● **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Flavours of oral liquid formulations may include raspberry.

● **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: tablet, capsule, oral suspension

Oral suspension

EXCIPIENTS: May contain Aspartame

▶ **Xaluprine** (Nova Laboratories Ltd)

Mercaptopurine 20 mg per 1 ml Xaluprine 20mg/ml oral suspension | 100 ml [PoM] £170.00 DT = £170.00

Tablet▶ **Mercaptopurine (Non-proprietary)**

Mercaptopurine 10 mg Mercaptopurine 10mg tablets |

100 tablet [PoM] [S]

Mercaptopurine 50 mg Mercaptopurine 50mg tablets |

25 tablet [PoM] £49.15 DT = £49.15

Hanixol 50mg tablets | 25 tablet [PoM] £34.39 DT = £49.15

Methotrexate

25-Jul-2019

- **DRUG ACTION** Methotrexate inhibits the enzyme dihydrofolate reductase, essential for the synthesis of purines and pyrimidines.

● **INDICATIONS AND DOSE****Severe Crohn's disease**▶ **BY INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION**

▶ **Adult:** Initially 25 mg once weekly until remission induced; maintenance 15 mg once weekly

Maintenance of remission of severe Crohn's disease▶ **BY MOUTH**

▶ **Adult:** 10–25 mg once weekly

Moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis▶ **BY MOUTH**

▶ **Adult:** 7.5 mg once weekly, adjusted according to response; maximum 20 mg per week

continued →