



Gemcitabine (Gemzar[®])

Generic Name: gemcitabine

Drug Name: Gemzar[®]

Purpose: Gemcitabine is a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain types of cancer. It interferes with cell reproduction and growth to prevent the cancer from growing or spreading.

How drug is given:

- Intravenous (IV) into a vein by a specially trained nurse at the hospital or Cancer Center.

Possible Side Effects:

- Mild to moderate nausea and vomiting may occur. Medications are available to help prevent or control the nausea.
- Flu-like symptoms such as:
 - body aches
 - fever of 100.4°F or higher
 - feeling very tired

Medications are available to help these symptoms.

- Mild rash
- Pain or discomfort at infusion site
- Low white blood cell count. Call your doctor if you have:
 - fever
 - new cough
- Low red blood cell count. Call your doctor if you feel:
 - dizzy
 - short of breath
 - very tired
- Low platelet count. Call your doctor if you have:
 - bleeding
 - new bruises
 - tiny red spots on skin
- Temporary hair loss starting approximately 2 weeks after first treatment. Your hair should grow back.

Important:

1. Talk about contraception (birth control) and/or family planning with your doctor while taking gemcitabine.
2. DO NOT breastfeed while taking gemcitabine.
3. Your doctor's office will check your blood counts and your liver and kidney function levels.