# Drug Information Table

## Nonbiologic (Traditional) DMARDs - Methotrexate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THERAPEUTIC USE</th>
<th>• Decrease joint inflammation and subsequently joint damage.</th>
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| ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS | • Bone marrow suppression (decreased platelets, red and white blood cells)  
• Increased risk of infection  
• Liver damage  
• Gastrointestinal ulceration  
• Pulmonary fibrosis  
• Dizziness and headache  
• Nausea and vomiting |
| INTERVENTIONS | • Monitor for decreased platelets, red and white blood cell counts.  
• Monitor for signs and symptoms of infection.  
• Monitor liver function tests and observe for jaundice.  
• Monitor for gastrointestinal bleeding (with methotrexate).  
• Monitor for respiratory distress and decreased oxygenation  
• Monitor for abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting |
| ADMINISTRATION | • Give methotrexate once a week via route prescribed (oral, subcutaneous, or intramuscular).  
• Folic acid supplement may be prescribed to decrease risk of toxicity. |
| CLIENT INSTRUCTIONS | • Report abnormal bleeding, bruising, or petechiae (pinpoint areas of blood under the skin). Report ulcerations of the mouth or tongue.  
• Report signs and symptoms of infection immediately.  
• Avoid ingesting alcohol.  
• Report yellowing of the skin and eyes immediately.  
• Report blood in vomitus or stools.  
• Report difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.  
• Drink adequate amounts (2L) of water daily to ensure excretion of drug.  
• Follow advice of Healthcare provider regarding contraception for men and women of child bearing age.  
• Avoid breastfeeding while on this drug. |
| CONTRAINDICATIONS | • Teratogenic (methotrexate)  
• Liver insufficiency or hepatitis  
• Renal insufficiency |
| PRECAUTIONS | • Peptic ulcer or ulcerative colitis  
• Active bacterial or viral infections |
| INTERACTIONS | • Concurrent use of methotrexate and digoxin may reduce digoxin level  
• Concurrent use of methotrexate and NSAIDs, salicylates, and sulfonamides may cause toxicity.  
• Caffeine may reduce the effectiveness of methotrexate  
• Concurrent use of warfarin may increase the risk for bleeding  
• Alcohol use may increase risk of hepatotoxicity. |