

Gemcitabine (Gemzar[®])

Gemcitabine is an anti-cancer medicine that stops cell growth and division. This medicine is used to treat many types of cancer.

How Is It Given?

- clear liquid by IV (intravenous)
- directly into the bladder through a catheter (intravesicular)

What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

Common:

- lowered white blood cell, red blood cell and platelet counts (occurs 1 to 2 weeks after treatment)
- mouth sores
- mild nausea (upset stomach) and vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite
- fatigue (tiredness)
- diarrhea
- flu-like symptoms (usually occurs with the first dose)
- fever
- need to urinate often
- burning while urinating
- small amounts of blood in the urine

Less common:

- bone or muscle pain
- skin rash (may occur 2 to 3 days after treatment)
- swollen hands or feet
- numb or tingling hands or feet
- dizziness

Special Notes

- You should not get pregnant or father a child while taking this medicine. To protect your partner, use barrier protection (condoms) during sex.

When To Call Your Doctor

You should call your doctor if you have:

- fever higher than 100.5 F
- chills
- sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhea you cannot control
- mouth sores
- severe rash or hives
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- bloody or cloudy urine
- shortness of breath.

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you want more complete medicine information or if you have questions.