Methotrexate (Rheumatrex/Trexall)

This medication is used to treat CROHN’S DISEASE

Included in a drug class called immunosuppressive antimetabolites

Works by reducing inflammation that leads to the symptoms of Crohn’s Disease

DRUG ADMINISTRATION
- Oral tablet or subcutaneous injection (under the skin) or intramuscular injection (into the muscle)
- Dose and frequency as prescribed by your provider

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:
- Nausea or vomiting
- Abnormal blood or liver tests
- Folate deficiency
- Increased risk of infection
- Rash, skin photosensitivity
- Rare liver or lung inflammation
- Birth defects and miscarriage (see below)

Some of these risks are increased when used in combination with an anti-TNF inhibitor for Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis

These rare risks are outweighed by potential complications of untreated inflammatory bowel disease

ADDITIONAL TESTING AND MONITORING
Prior to starting this medication, your doctor may order:
- Blood counts, liver tests, test for inflammation (blood and/or stool test), pregnancy test, stool tests to rule out infection, and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy

While on this medication, your doctor may order:
- Blood counts and liver tests regularly to ensure safety
- Repeat tests for inflammation and abdominal imaging and/or colonoscopy to assess your response to treatment

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION
- This medication should be AVOIDED IN PREGNANCY, and used cautiously in women of childbearing age with 2 forms of birth control
- When taking methotrexate, you should also take folic acid 1 mg every day.
- Make sure you are up to date on the following vaccinations: annual flu, pneumovax, Prevnar-13, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, and Shingrix (age >50)
- Avoid LIVE vaccines while on this medication
- This medication should be taken exactly as prescribed to properly treat your disease.
- Please contact your provider if you experience any signs or symptoms of infection
- Do not stop or hold this medication without contacting your gastroenterologist

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