

GEMCITABINE (Gemzar)

Type of Drug: Antimetabolite

How is it Given?

- Intravenous (IV) - into a vein or central line

How Does it Work?

- Stops cells from making and repairing DNA so the cancer cells cannot grow and multiply

Common Side Effects:

- Low blood counts
- Nausea/Vomiting (mild)
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, aches)
- Changes in liver function tests
- Changes in kidney tests (blood and protein in urine)
- Tiredness and general feeling of weakness
- Swelling (fluid retention)
- Diarrhea or constipation

Less Common Side Effects:

- Mouth sores
- Drowsiness
- Hair loss
- Rash (itching)
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath

Note:

- Immediately report any feelings of dizziness or shortness of breath during your infusion to your nurse or oncologist.
- Report any blood in urine, rash/hives, wheezing, persistent nausea/vomiting or diarrhea.