

# Alvoxal®

## Oxaliplatin

Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking Alvoxal®. This leaflet provides answers to the most common questions. If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist. This medicine has been prescribed for your current illness only. Do not take it in similar conditions and do not pass it on to others. The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the bottom of the page. More recent information on the medicine may be available. You should ensure that you speak to your doctor or pharmacist to obtain the most up-to-date scientific information on the medicine. The latest version of this leaflet is available on [www.nanoalvand.com](http://www.nanoalvand.com).

### What is in this leaflet

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### 1. What Alvoxal® is and what it is used for

Alvoxal® is an anticancer medicine containing the active substance oxaliplatin. Alvoxal® is used to treat metastatic (advanced) cancer of the colon (large bowel) or rectum, or as additional treatment following surgery to remove a tumor (growth) in the colon. It is used in combination with other anticancer agents, 5-fluorouracil and folic acid.

### 2. What you need to know before you use Alvoxal®

#### Do not use Alvoxal®

- If you are allergic to oxaliplatin.
- If you are breast-feeding.
- If you already have a reduced number of blood cells (white blood cells and/or platelets).
- If you already have tingling and numbness in the fingers and/or toes, and have difficulty performing delicate tasks, such as buttoning clothes.
- If you have severe kidney problems.

#### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Alvoxal®:

- If you have ever suffered an allergic reaction to platinum-containing medicines such as carboplatin or cisplatin.
- If you have moderate kidney problems, any liver problems or abnormal liver function test results during your treatment.
- If you have or had heart disorders such as an abnormal electrical signal called prolongation of the QT interval, an irregular heartbeat, or a family history of heart problems.

If any of the following applies to you at any time, tell your doctor immediately. Your doctor may need to treat you for these events. Your doctor may need to reduce the dose of Alvoxal®, or delay or stop your treatment with Alvoxal®:

- If you have an unpleasant sensation in the throat, in particular when swallowing, and have a sensation of shortness of breath, during the treatment.
- If you have nerve problems in your hands or feet, such as numbness or tingling, or decreased sensations in your hands or feet.
- If you have headache, altered mental functioning, seizures and abnormal vision from blurriness to vision loss.
- If you feel or are sick (nausea or vomiting).
- If you have severe diarrhea.
- If you have sore lips or mouth ulcers (mucositis/stomatitis).
- If you have diarrhea, or a reduction in white blood cells or platelets, tell your doctor. Your doctor may reduce the dose of Alvoxal® or postpone your treatment with Alvoxal®.
- If you have unexplained respiratory symptoms such as cough, or any difficulties in breathing, tell your doctor. Your doctor may stop your treatment with Alvoxal®.
- If you develop an extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, or kidney disease where you pass little or no urine (symptoms of acute renal failure).
- If you have fever (temperature greater than or equal to 38°C), or chills, which could be signs of infection, tell your doctor immediately. You may be at risk of getting an infection of the blood.
- If you have fever >38°C, tell your doctor. Your doctor may determine you also have a reduction in white blood cells.
- If you experience unexpected bleeding or bruising (disseminated intravascular coagulation), tell your doctor as these could be signs of blood clots throughout the small vessels of your body.
- If you faint (lose consciousness) or have an irregular heartbeat while being given Alvoxal®, tell your doctor immediately as this may be a sign of a serious heart condition.
- If you experience muscle pain and swelling, in combination with weakness, fever, or red-brown urine, tell your doctor. These could be signs of muscle damage (rhabdomyolysis) and could lead to kidney problems or other complications.
- If you have abdominal pain, nausea, bloody vomit or vomit that looks like "coffee-grounds", or dark-colored/tarry stools, which may be signs of an ulcer of the bowel (gastrointestinal ulcer, with potential bleeding or perforation), tell your doctor.
- If you have abdominal (tummy) pain, bloody diarrhea, and nausea and/or vomiting, which may be caused by a reduction of blood flow to your gut wall (intestinal ischemia), tell your doctor.

#### Children and adolescents

Alvoxal® should not be used in children and adolescents below 18 years of age.

#### Other medicines and Alvoxal®

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used, or might use any other medicines.

#### Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

##### Pregnancy

It is not recommended that you become pregnant during treatment with Alvoxal® and must use an effective method of contraception.

If you are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, it is very important that you discuss this with your doctor before you receive any treatment.

If you get pregnant during your treatment, you must immediately inform your doctor.

#### Contraception

Female patients should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and after cessation of therapy continuing for 9 months.

Male patients are advised not to father a child during treatment and until 6 months after treatment, and to take appropriate contraceptive measures during this time.

#### Breast-feeding

You must not breast-feed while you are treated with Alvoxal®.

#### Fertility

Alvoxal® may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. Male patients should seek advice on conservation of sperm prior to treatment. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

#### Driving and using machines

Alvoxal® treatment may result in an increased risk of dizziness, nausea and vomiting, and other neurological symptoms that affect walking and balance. If this happens you should not drive or operate machinery. If you have vision problems while being given Alvoxal®, do not drive, operate heavy machines, or engage in dangerous activities.

### 3. How to use Alvoxal®

#### Dosage

The dose of Alvoxal® is based on your body surface area (calculated from your height and weight). The dose will also depend on results of blood tests and whether you have previously experienced side effects with Alvoxal®.

The recommended dose for adults including the elderly is 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> of body surface.

#### Method and route of administration

- Alvoxal® will be prescribed for you by a specialist in cancer treatment.
- You will be treated by a healthcare professional, who will have made up the required dose of Alvoxal®.
- Alvoxal® is given by an intravenous infusion over a 2 to 6 hour period.
- Alvoxal® will be given to you at the same time as folic acid and before the infusion of 5-fluorouracil.
- The needle must remain in the vein while the drug is being given. If the needle comes out or becomes loose, or the solution is going into the tissue outside the vein (you may feel discomfort or pain), tell the nurse or doctor immediately.

#### Frequency of administration

You should usually receive your infusion once every two weeks.

#### Duration of treatment

The duration of the treatment will be determined by your doctor. Your treatment will last a maximum of 6 months when used after complete resection of your tumor.

#### If you use more Alvoxal® than you should

As this medicine is administered by a healthcare professional it is highly unlikely that you will be given too much or too little. In case of overdose, you may experience increased side effects. Your doctor may give you appropriate treatment for these side effects. If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor.

### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Tell your doctor if you get any side effects, including those not listed in this leaflet.

You will find described below the side effects that you could experience.

#### Most serious side effects

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

#### Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- allergies/allergic reactions, occurring mainly during infusion, sometimes fatal
- stomatitis, mucositis (sore lips or mouth ulcers)
- low platelet count, abnormal bruising (thrombocytopenia). Your doctor will take blood to check that you have sufficient blood cells before you start treatment and before each subsequent course.
- unexplained respiratory symptoms such as dry cough, difficulties in breathing or crackles

#### Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- serious infection of the blood in addition to a reduction in white blood cells (neutropenic sepsis), which may be fatal
- reduction in white blood cells accompanied by fever >38.3°C or a prolonged fever >38°C for more than one hour (febrile neutropenia)
- symptoms of an allergic or anaphylactic reaction with sudden signs such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, difficulties in swallowing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing, extreme tiredness (you may feel you are going to faint). In the majority of cases, these symptoms occurred during the infusion or immediately after, but delayed allergic reactions have also been observed hours or even days after the infusion.
- pain in the chest or upper back, difficulty breathing and coughing up blood (symptoms of clots in the lungs)

#### Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- serious infection of the blood (sepsis), which may be fatal
- blockage or swelling of the bowel
- difficulty in hearing, vertigo, ringing in ears

#### Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1000 people)

- unexpected bleeding or bruising due to widespread blood clots throughout the small blood vessels of the body (disseminated intravascular coagulation), which may be fatal
- abnormal bruising, bleeding or signs of infection such as a sore throat and high temperature
- persistent or severe diarrhea or vomiting
- reversible short-term loss of vision
- a group of symptoms such as headache, altered mental functioning, seizures and abnormal vision from blurriness to vision loss (symptoms of reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome, a rare neurological disorder)
- extreme tiredness with decreased number of red

blood cells, and shortness of breath (hemolytic anemia), alone or combined with low platelet count, abnormal bruising (thrombocytopenia) and kidney disease where you pass little or no urine (symptoms of hemolytic-uremic syndrome)

- scarring and thickening in the lungs with difficulties in breathing, sometimes fatal (interstitial lung disease)

- pain in upper abdomen and pain associated with nausea and vomiting

#### Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- kidney disease where you pass little or no urine (symptoms of acute renal failure)

- vascular disorders of the liver (symptoms include abdominal pain and swelling, weight gain and tissue swelling of the feet, ankles or other parts of the body)

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- serious infection of the blood and low blood pressure (septic shock), which may be fatal

- abnormal heart rhythm (QT prolongation), that can be seen on electrocardiogram (ECG), which may be fatal

- muscle pain and swelling, in combination with weakness, fever, or red-brown urine (symptoms of muscle damage called rhabdomyolysis), which may be fatal

- abdominal pain, nausea, bloody vomit or vomit that looks like "coffee grounds", or dark-colored/tarry stools (symptoms of gastrointestinal ulcer, with potential bleeding or perforation), which may be fatal

- decreased blood flow to the intestine/bowel (intestinal ischemia), which may be fatal

- spasm of the throat causing difficulty in breathing

- auto-immune reaction leading to reduction of all blood cell lines (autoimmune pancytopenia) (symptoms include easy bleeding, easy bruising, shortness of breath, extreme lethargy and weakness, and an increased risk of infection due to the immune compromised state)

- stroke symptoms (including sudden severe headache, confusion, trouble seeing in one or both eyes, numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg usually on one side, face drooping, trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance and speech difficulty)

- pneumonia (serious lung infection) which may be fatal

#### Other known side effects

#### Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Alvoxal® can affect the nerves (peripheral neuropathy). You may feel a tingling and/or numbness in the fingers, toes, around the mouth or in the throat, which may sometimes occur in association with cramps.

- These effects are often triggered by exposure to cold e.g., opening a refrigerator or holding a cold drink. You should avoid cold temperatures and cold objects, cover your skin if you go outdoors in cold temperatures, do not drink cold drinks or use ice cubes in drinks, do not put ice or ice packs on your body.

- You may also have difficulty in performing delicate tasks, such as buttoning clothes. Although in the majority of cases these symptoms disappear completely, there is a possibility of persistent symptoms of peripheral sensory neuropathy after the end of the treatment. Some people have experienced a tingling shock-like sensation passing down the arms or trunk when the neck is flexed.

- Alvoxal® can sometimes cause an unpleasant sensation in the throat, in particular when swallowing, and give the sensation of shortness of breath. This sensation, if it happens, usually occurs during or within hours of the infusion and may be triggered by exposure to the cold. Although unpleasant, it will not last long and goes away without the need for any treatment. Your doctor may decide to alter your treatment as a result.

- Alvoxal® may cause diarrhea, mild nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick); however, medication to prevent the sickness is usually given before treatment and may be continued after treatment.

- Alvoxal® causes temporary reduction in the number of blood cells. The reduction of red cells may cause anemia (a reduction of red cells), abnormal bleeding or bruising (due to a reduction in platelets). The reduction in white blood cells may make you prone to infections. Your doctor will take blood to check that you have sufficient blood cells before you start treatment and before each subsequent course.

- sensation of discomfort close to or at the injection site during the infusion

- fever, rigors (tremors), mild or severe tiredness, body pain

- weight changes, loss or lack of appetite, taste disorders, constipation

- headache, back pain

- abnormal tongue sensation possibly altering speech

- stomach pain

- abnormal bleeding including nose bleeds

- allergic reactions, skin rash including red and itchy skin, mild hair loss (alopecia)

- alteration in blood tests including those relating to abnormalities on liver function

#### Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- indigestion and heart burn, hiccups, flushing and dizziness
- increased sweating and nail disorders, flaking skin

- chest pain

- lung disorders and runny nose

- joint pain and bone pain

- pain on passing urine and changes in kidney function, changes of frequency of urination, dehydration

- blood in the urine/stools, swelling of the veins

- high blood pressure

- depression and sleeplessness (insomnia)

- conjunctivitis and visual problems

- decreased levels of calcium in the blood

- swelling of the nerves to the muscles, neck stiffness

- fall

#### Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- nervousness

#### Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- loss of hearing

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- allergic vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels)

- convulsion (uncontrolled shaking of the body)

- myocardial infarction (heart attack), angina pectoris (pain or uncomfortable feeling in the chest)

- esophageal inflammation (inflammation of the lining of the esophagus -the tube that connects your mouth with your stomach- resulting in pain and swallowing difficulty)

- risk of new cancers. Leukemia, a form of blood cancer, has been reported in patients after taking oxaliplatin in combination with certain other medicines. Talk to your doctor about the potential for increased risk of this type of cancer when you are given Alvoxal® and certain other medicines.

### 5. How to store Alvoxal®

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

- Store below 30°C.

- Store in the original package in order to protect from light.

- Store the diluted solution for no more than 6 hours at room temperature (below 30°C) or 24 hours in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C).

- From a microbiological point of view, the diluted product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user.

- Cytotoxic agent. Must be transported, stored and used according to guidelines for handling of cytotoxic compounds.

- Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

### 6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### What Alvoxal® contains

The active substance is oxaliplatin. The other ingredient is water for injection

#### What Alvoxal® looks like and contents of the pack

Alvoxal® is supplied in two strengths. One vial of Alvoxal® contains 50 mg/10 ml, or 100 mg/20 ml of oxaliplatin. Each vial is packed in a box with a leaflet.

Not all strengths may be marketed.

### For medical or healthcare professionals only

#### Special precautions for administration

- DO NOT use injection equipment containing aluminium.

- DO NOT administer Alvoxal® undiluted.

- Only dextrose 5% (50 mg/ml) solution for infusion is to be used as a diluent.

- DO NOT dilute for infusion with sodium chloride or chloride containing solutions.

- DO NOT mix with any other medicinal products in the same infusion bag or administer simultaneously by the same infusion line.

- DO NOT mix with alkaline medicinal products or solutions, in particular 5-fluorouracil, folic acid preparations containing trometamol as an excipient and trometamol salts of others active substances. Alkaline medicinal products or solutions will adversely affect the stability of Alvoxal®.

#### Instruction for use with folic acid (as calcium folinate or disodium folinate)

Alvoxal® 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup> intravenous infusion in 250 to 500 ml of dextrose 5% (50 mg/ml) solution is given at the same time as folic acid intravenous infusion in dextrose 5% solution over 2 to 6 hours, using a Y-line placed immediately before the site of infusion. These two medicinal products should not be combined in the same infusion bag. Folic acid must not contain trometamol as an excipient and must only be diluted using isotonic dextrose 5% solution, never in alkaline solutions or sodium chloride containing solutions.

#### Instruction for use with 5-fluorouracil

Alvoxal® should always be administered before fluoropyrimidines - i.e., 5-fluorouracil.

After Alvoxal® administration, flush the line and then administer 5-fluorouracil.

#### Incompatibilities

This medicinal product should not be mixed with other medicinal products except for those mentioned in the section "Instructions for dilution".

#### Instructions for dilution

Only dextrose 5% solution should be used to dilute the concentrate.

Withdraw the required amount of concentrate from the vial(s) and then dilute with 250 to 500 ml of a dextrose 5% solution to give an oxaliplatin concentration between 0.2 mg/ml and 0.7 mg/ml, i.e., the concentration range over which the physicochemical stability for Alvoxal® has been demonstrated.

Inspect visually prior to use. Only clear solutions without particles should be used. This medicinal product is for single use only. Any unused solution for infusion should be discarded.

NEVER use sodium chloride or chloride containing solutions for dilution. The compatibility of Alvoxal® solution for infusion has been tested with representative PVC-based, administrative sets.

#### Infusion

Alvoxal® diluted in 250 to 500 ml of a dextrose 5% solution to give a concentration not less than 0.2 mg/ml must be infused either by peripheral vein or central venous line over 2 to 6 hours. When Alvoxal® is administered with 5-fluorouracil, the Alvoxal® infusion must precede the administration of 5-fluorouracil.

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Manufactured by Nano Fanavaron Darouei Alvand (NanoAlvand)

Address: W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Simin Dasht Industrial Area, Karaj, Alborz, Iran.

Tel: +9826-36671187

Fax: +9826-36671187

E-mail: [info@nanoalvand.com](mailto:info@nanoalvand.com)

URL: [www.nanoalvand.com](http://www.nanoalvand.com)

