

# Floxuridine

Names	The generic drug name is <b>floxuridine</b> (flox ure' i deen). The brand name is <b>FUDR®</b> . There may be other names for this medication.
Why Am I Receiving Floxuridine?	This drug is used to treat adults with colon or stomach cancer that has spread to the liver. This medication is injected into an artery in the liver.
How Does it Work?	<p><b>Floxuridine</b> is in a class of drugs known as antimetabolites; more specifically, it is an <b>adenosine deaminase inhibitor</b>. Floxuridine is biologically similar to substances normally found inside the cell. Once it gets into the cell, it stops the cell from reproducing.</p> <p>Floxuridine needs to be broken down by the body to its active form. The enzyme that breaks down the drug is mostly found in the liver and the lining of the stomach and intestines.</p>
How is it Given?	<p>Floxuridine is delivered into an artery in the liver. This allows the medication to reach cancer cells in the liver directly.</p> <p><i>Intraperitoneal chemotherapy:</i> The medication is put directly into an artery (to the liver) through a port, not through an IV (into a vein).</p> <p><i>Implanted pump:</i> Medication is loaded into a small (2-3 inch) hepatic artery pump, implanted under the skin in your abdomen near your liver. The pump is made so that when it is warmed up by your body, it starts releasing the medication into the artery leading to your liver.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have had an allergic reaction to floxuridine or have any allergies</li><li>• have kidney or liver disease, a blood disorder, or an infection (flu, sore throat, chicken pox)</li><li>• have trouble maintaining good nutrition</li><li>• are receiving radiation therapy, or have had it recently</li><li>• are pregnant or breastfeeding</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>



## What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- GI: Upset stomach, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite or weight, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Skin: Dry, red, and itchy skin; rash; hair loss
- Fever, chills, headache
- Allergic reactions
- Breathing problems, cough, chest pain
- Low blood counts, bruising, bleeding, fatigue, increased risk of infections
- Mouth sores
- Pain
- Swelling
- Birth defects

## How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Drink 2-3 quarts of fluids a day, especially water, unless your doctor has restricted your fluids. This is very important to help prevent dehydration and flush the medication from your body.
- **For fever and infection:** Keep warm with blankets and drink plenty of liquids.
- To help avoid infections: Avoid crowds and people who are ill. Wash your hands well – and often. Do not receive any kind of immunization or vaccination without your doctor's approval.
- **To help prevent nausea,** avoid fried, spicy, and fatty foods on the days you receive chemo and for 2-3 days afterwards. Eating small, frequent meals may help. If you have nausea, try foods and drinks that are bland - ginger ale, dry crackers, and toast.
- Diarrhea: Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have severe diarrhea or if it lasts longer than 2 days.
- **Ask your doctor before taking any medicines or products for any side effect. Talk to your doctor before taking aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen because they may mask a fever.**
- **Do not get pregnant or father a child while in treatment.** This drug may be harmful to a fetus. Both men and women should use effective birth control during treatment. Barrier methods such as condoms and diaphragms are recommended. Do not breastfeed while you are receiving this medicine.
- **Mouth sores:** To help prevent mouth sores, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. Do not use alcohol, mouthwashes that contain alcohol, or tobacco products.



## When Should I Call the Doctor?

**Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have life-threatening symptoms such as** signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives.

Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital

### **Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- any sign of infection: **Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound or skin irritation

### **Call your doctor as soon as possible (within 1 day) if you have:**

- painful sores or ulcers on the skin, lips, or mouth; blisters; rash; or peeling skin
- nausea or vomiting that is not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- unusual bruising or bleeding: Bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)