Approved Patient Information Leaflet for Medicines for Human Use:

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL

SCHEDULING STATUS: S4

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL, 200 mg/5 mL, 1 g/25 mL, 2 g/50 mL

Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

Gemcitabine

Sugar free

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or other health care provider.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.8
- The full name of this medicine is GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL 200 mg/5 mL, 1 g/25 mL, 2 g/50 mL Concentrate for Solution for Infusion but within the leaflet it will be referred to as GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL.

What is in this leaflet

6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is and what it is used for

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL belongs to a group of medicines called “cytotoxics”. These medicines kill dividing cells, including cancer cells.

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL may be given alone or in combination with other anti-cancer medicines, depending on the type of cancer.

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is used in the treatment of the various types of cancers.

2. What you need to know before you use GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL should not be administered to you:

- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to gemcitabine or any of the other ingredients of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL (listed in section 6).
- if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- if you are under 18 years of age.

Warnings and precautions

Before the first infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to check if your liver and kidneys are working well enough for you to receive this medicine. Before each infusion you will have samples of your blood taken to check if you have enough blood cells to receive GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL. Your doctor may decide to change the dose or delay treating you depending on your general condition and if

your blood cell counts are too low. Periodically you will have samples of your blood taken to check how well your kidneys and liver are working.

Tell your doctor or health care provider before being given GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL:

- if you have, or have previously had liver disease, heart disease, vascular disease or problems with your kidneys talk to your doctor or hospital pharmacist as you may not be able to receive gemcitabine.
- if you have ever developed a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after using gemcitabine.

  Serious skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been reported in association with gemcitabine treatment. Seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms related to these serious skin reactions described in section 4.
- if you have recently had or are going to have radiotherapy, please tell your doctor as there may be an early or late radiation reaction with gemcitabine.
- if you have had a yellow fever or other vaccine recently.
- if during treatment with this medicine you get symptoms such as headache with confusion, seizures (fits) or changes in vision, call your doctor right away. This could be a very rare nervous system side effect named posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome.
- if you develop breathing difficulties or feel very weak and are very pale, please tell your doctor as this may be a sign of kidney failure or problems with your lungs.

- if you develop generalised swelling, shortness of breath or weight gain, please tell your doctor as these may be a sign of fluid leaking from your small blood vessels into the tissues.

Children and adolescents

This medicine is not recommended for use in children under 18 years of age due to insufficient data on safety and efficacy.

Other medicines and GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL

Always tell your health care provider if you are taking any other medicine. (This includes all complementary or traditional medicines.)

Tell your doctor or hospital pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including vaccinations and medicines obtained without a prescription; or if you have recently undergone radiotherapy or are going to have radiotherapy.

Pregnancy and, breastfeeding and fertility

Contraception

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL can cause harm to the foetus, therefore you need to ensure effective contraception (birth control) during your treatment and for 12 months following your last dose if you are a female of childbearing potential or for 6 months if you are a male with a female partner of childbearing potential.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider for advice before taking this medicine.

The use of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL should be avoided during pregnancy. Your doctor will discuss with you the potential risk of taking GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL during pregnancy.

Breastfeeding

If you are breastfeeding, tell your doctor. You must discontinue breastfeeding during GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL treatment.

Fertility

Men are advised not to father a child during and up to 6 months following treatment with GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL. If you would like to father a child during the treatment or in the 6 months following treatment, seek advice from your doctor or pharmacist. You may want to seek counselling on sperm storage before starting your therapy.

Driving and using machines

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL may make you feel sleepy. Do not drive a car or use machinery until you are sure that GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL treatment is not affecting your alertness.

3. How to use GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL

Carefully follow all instructions given to you by your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

You will not be expected to give yourself GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL. It will be given to you by a person who is qualified to do so.

The dose and duration of your treatment will be determined by your doctor, depending on your condition. This medicine will be given to you through a drip (by infusion into a vein). Your height and weight are measured to work out the surface area of your body. Your doctor will use this body surface area to work out the right dose for you. This dosage may be adjusted, or treatment may be delayed depending on your blood cell counts and on your general condition.

A hospital pharmacist or doctor will have diluted the GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL concentrate before it is given to you.
This medicine is not recommended for use in children under 18 years of age.

If you have further questions on the use of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL ask your doctor or pharmacist.
Your doctor will tell you how long your treatment with GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL will last. If you have the impression that the effect of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is too strong or too weak, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are administered more GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL than you should
Since a health care provider will administer GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL, he / she will control the dosage. However, in the event of overdosage your doctor will manage the overdosage.

If GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is not administered to you

Since a health care provider will administer GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL, it is unlikely that the dose will be missed.

If you have the impression that the effect of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is too strong or too weak, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL can have side effects.

Not all side effects reported for GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while receiving GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL, please consult your health care provider for advice.

If any of the following happens, tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- Bleeding from the gums, nose or mouth or any bleeding that does not stop, reddish or pinkish urine, unexpected bruising (since you might have less platelets than normal which is frequent).
- Tiredness, feeling faint, becoming easily breathless or if you look pale (since you might have less haemoglobin than normal which is frequent).
- Allergic reactions: Mild to moderate skin rash; itching; or fever (all are frequent).
- Temperature of 38 ºC or greater, sweating or other signs of infection (since you might have less white blood cells than normal accompanied by fever also known as febrile neutropenia) (frequent).
- Pain, redness, swelling or sores in your mouth (stomatitis) (frequent).
- Irregular heart rate (dysrhythmia) (less frequent).

- Extreme tiredness and weakness, purpura or small areas of bleeding in the skin (bruises), acute renal failure (low urine output /or no urine output), and signs of infection (haemolytic uraemic syndrome).

  It may be fatal (less frequent).
- Difficulty breathing (it is common to have mild breathing difficulty soon after the GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL infusion which soon passes, however there can be more severe lung problems less frequently).
- Severe chest pain (myocardial infarction) (less frequent).
- Severe hypersensitivity/allergic reaction with severe skin rash including red itchy skin, swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), wheezing, fast beating heart and you may feel you are going to faint (anaphylactic reaction) (less frequent).
- Generalised swelling, shortness of breath or weight gain, as you might have fluid leakage from small blood vessels into the tissues (capillary leak syndrome) (less frequent).

  Headache with changes in vision, confusion, seizures or fits (posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome) (less frequent).

  Severe rash with itching, blistering or peeling of the skin, often accompanied by flu-like symptoms (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis) (less frequent).
- A red, scaly widespread rash with bumps under the swollen skin (including your skin folds, trunk, and upper extremities) and blisters accompanied by fever (Acute Generalized Exanthematous Pustulosis (AGEP)) (frequency not known).

These are very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious reaction to GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

Frequent side effects:

- Poor appetite (anorexia)
- feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting), painful mouth
- diarrhoea, constipation
- headache, difficulty sleeping, sleepiness
- itching, sweating, skin rash
- increases in some liver enzymes (seen on a blood test)
- loss of hair
- swelling of the ankles, fingers, or feet
- flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, back pain, shivering, muscle pain, weakness, lack of appetite, cough, runny nose, tiredness, perspiration and sleeping difficulties.

Less frequent side effects:

- increases in some liver enzymes and bilirubin (seen on a blood test)
- scaling or ulceration of the skin
- swelling of the face
- a skin rash like severe sunburn that may occur in patients who have been exposed to radiation (radiation recall)
- scarring of the air sacs of the lung associated with radiation therapy (radiation toxicity).

If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

Reporting of side effects

If you get side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via the "**6.04 Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Form**", found online under SAHPRA's publications: https://www.sahpra.org.za/Publications/Index/8. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL**.**

5. How to store GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL

- Store all medicines out of reach of children.

Your doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional knows how to store GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL. The doctor or nurse who is administering GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL to you, will make sure that the medicine is not used after the expiry date printed on the vial. They will also reconstitute GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL and visually inspect the solution before giving it to you. Only clear solution without particles will be used.

Unopened container

Store in a refrigerator (2 °C – 8 °C).

After first opening

Chemical and physical in use stability has been demonstrated for 28 days at 25 °C. From a microbiological point of view, unless the method of opening precludes the risk of microbial contamination, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions are the responsibility

of the user.

Solution for infusion

Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 28 days at 2 °C to 8 °C and about 25 °C upon dilution in 0,9 % sodium chloride solution to a final concentration in the range between 2 – 25 mg/mL (2,0 mg/mL, 12 mg/mL and 25 mg/mL). Diluted solutions are stable when packaged into either PVC or PE infusion bags.

From a microbiological point of view, the solution for infusion should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2 °C to 8 °C unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL contains

- The active substance is gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride). Each mL of concentrate for solution for infusion contains 40 mg gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
    - Each 5 mL vial contains 200 mg gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
    - Each 25 mL vial contains 1 g gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
    - Each 50 mL vial contains 2 g gemcitabine (as gemcitabine hydrochloride).
- The other ingredients are hydrochloric acid (E507) for pH adjustment, and water for injections.

What GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL looks like and contents of the pack

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is supplied a clear, colourless or pale, yellow solution.

GEMCITABINE IV AUSTELL is contained in type I colourless glass vials with bromobutyl

rubber stoppers and sealed with aluminium caps with polypropylene disc. Each vial will be packed with or without a protective plastic overwrap.

Pack sizes

1 x 5 mL vial

1 x 25 mL vial

1 x 50 mL vial

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Holder of Certificate of Registration

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GEMCITABINE IV 1 g/25 mL AUSTELL: 52/26/0319

GEMCITABINE IV 2 g/50 mL AUSTELL: 52/26/0320

Access to the corresponding Professional Information

Professional Information for this medicine is available on the following URL:

https://austell.co.za/product-info/

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