**PRODUCT INFORMATION**

**Methotrexate**  
*Item No. 13960*

CAS Registry No.: 59-05-2  
Formal Name: N-[4-[[2,4-diamino-6-pteridinyl]methyl][methylamino]benzoyl]-L-glutamic acid  
Synonyms: Amethopterin, CL 14,377, EMT 25299, MTX, NSC 740, R 9985  
MF: C₂₀H₂₂N₈O₅  
FW: 454.4  
Purity: ≥98%  
UV/Vis.: λₘₐₓ: 262, 299, 377 nm  
Supplied as: A crystalline solid  
Storage: -20°C  
Stability: ≥2 years

Information represents the product specifications. Batch specific analytical results are provided on each certificate of analysis.

**Laboratory Procedures**

Methotrexate (MTX) is supplied as a crystalline solid. A stock solution may be made by dissolving the MTX in the solvent of choice. MTX is soluble in organic solvents such as DMSO and dimethyl formamide, which should be purged with an inert gas. The solubility of MTX in these solvents is approximately 3 and 14 mg/ml respectively.

Further dilutions of the stock solution into aqueous buffers or isotonic saline should be made prior to performing biological experiments. Ensure that the residual amount of organic solvent is insignificant, since organic solvents may have physiological effects at low concentrations. Organic solvent-free aqueous solutions of MTX can be prepared by directly dissolving the crystalline solid in aqueous buffers. The solubility of MTX in PBS, pH 7.2, is approximately 1 mg/ml. We do not recommend storing the aqueous solution for more than one day.

**Description**

MTX is similar in structure to folic acid (Item No. 20515) and aminopterin (Item No. 21802). It acts by inhibiting the metabolism of folic acid and blocking key enzymes in the synthesis of purines and pyrimidines required for cell proliferation.¹,² MTX is known to induce adenosine release, which mediates many of its anti-inflammatory effects, including the reduction of proinflammatory cytokines.²-⁴ Formulations containing MTX have been used in the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases, ectopic pregnancy, and for the induction of medical abortions.⁵,⁶ MTX formulations have been considered the gold standard of disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy to treat both the immune-inflammatory and joint destructive processes of rheumatoid arthritis.⁷

**References**