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# 5-fluorouracil poisoning

INSERM

## Source

*INSERM. (1999). Orphanet: an online rare disease and orphan drug data base. 5-fluorouracil poisoning. ORPHA:217064*

5-fluorouracil (5-FU) poisoning is a rare intoxication caused by the prolonged, low-dose administration of 5-FU, which is the mainstay of both adjuvant and advanced-disease chemotherapy regimens in colon cancer. 5-FU poisoning is characterized by gastrointestinal (nausea, emesis, diarrhea, anorexia, stomatitis) and hematologic (myelosuppression) toxicities as well as mucositis, alopecia and, occasionally, palmar-plantar dysesthesia (more commonly known as hand-foot syndrome). Women have been reported to experience more 5-FU-related toxicity than men.