

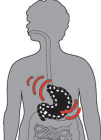
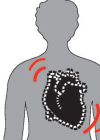

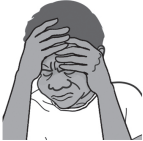








<p>Active ingredients (generic names)</p>	<p>DEXAMETHASONE (deks-a-meth-a-sonē) HYDROCORTISONE (hy-dro-cor-ti-zone) PREDNISOLONE (pred-nis-o-lone)+</p>  <p>Other corticosteroids Not included in this monograph — see <i>AMH</i> for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betamethasone • Cortisone • Methylprednisolone • Prednisone • Triamcinolone
<p>What it is used for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma or chronic lung disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Hydrocortisone: severe child asthma, moderate/severe adult asthma, acute COPD ▶ Prednisolone: mild/moderate child asthma, mild/moderate adult asthma, acute COPD • Meningitis (dexamethasone) • Croup (dexamethasone) • Immunosuppressant (eg after kidney transplant) • Other severe inflammatory or immune disorders
<p>How it works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces inflammation by blocking body's natural response to infection or injury
<p>Side effects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood glucose disturbance (hyperglycaemia), sleep disturbance • Long term — many side effects including bone density loss, muscle weakness, mood disturbance, skin atrophy, weight gain, infection

 <p>Warnings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood glucose levels can increase in people with diabetes • Do not use soon after chickenpox, shingles or measles infections <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Stomach trouble</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Heart trouble</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>High BP</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Mental health problems</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Medical consult if needed for more than one week</p> </div> </div>
<p>Tell the patient</p> 	<p>Interactions — Do not use together without medical consult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corticosteroids interact with a lot of different medicines — always check with doctor or pharmacist before adding another medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If taking for more than 3 weeks — do not stop suddenly, follow instructions for slowly reducing dose • If taking for a long time — make sure you tell other doctors and health people that you are taking this medicine • Can increase risk of infections (eg thrush) • If possible take in the morning to avoid sleep disruption • Different steroids are not interchangeable <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Take with food or milk</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Return to clinic if needed for more than a short time</p> </div> </div> <p>Warning stickers (page 310): 9, B, prednisolone also 6 (some oral products)</p>
<p>Check</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If using for more than 3 months — bone density test for possible damage to bones (steroid-induced osteoporosis) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Blood pressure</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Blood test — Check kidney function (UEC), LFT BGL before giving medicine, then once a week for the first month of treatment</p> </div> </div>