

Prednisone: Drug Information for Patients

What Is This Medicine Used For?

This medication is used to treat inflammation, allergic reactions, or suppress the immune system in various acute and chronic illnesses.

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| Allergy symptoms | Skin rashes |
| Arthritis | Inflammatory Bowel Disease |
| Asthma | Leukemia & Lymphoma |
| Tonsillitis | |

How Does This Medication Work?

- Prednisone replaces an important chemical/hormone produced by the body
- It blocks allergic reactions by minimizing or preventing the body's abnormal response to an allergen it considers harmful.
- It prevents or reduces swelling.
- It decreases the body's harmful responses to diseases that affect the immune system.

How Is this Medication Best Taken?

- If prescribed once daily, take the dose in the morning.
- With food to prevent stomach upset.

What Should I Do if I Miss a Dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as possible.
- If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the prescribed timing.
- Do not take double doses.
- Discuss with your healthcare provider before discontinuing a prescribed course.

What Are The Precautions When Taking This Medication?

- Talk with a healthcare provider before receiving any vaccines, as current or recent use of Prednisone may either increase the risk of serious infection from the vaccine or make the vaccine less effective.
- Avoid exposure to persons with Chickenpox or Measles if inadequately vaccinated in the past.
- Do not take antacids within 2 hours of this medication.
- Avoid alcohol while taking this medication.
- If you are currently or previously suffered from a mood disorder, advise your healthcare provider. Prednisone may cause psychiatric disturbance, including depression, anxiety, hyperactivity, insomnia, mood swings, and personality changes.
- Discuss the use of this medication if you have any of the following conditions: diabetes, glaucoma, high blood pressure, infection, osteoporosis, stomach ulcers, tuberculosis, pregnancy, breast-feeding

What Are Some Possible Side Effects of This Medication?

- High blood sugar
- Risk of infection
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea or vomiting
- Weight gain
- Mood changes (i.e. anxiety, irritability, depression)
- Difficulty sleeping
- Weakened bones (with long-term use)
- Muscle weakness/soreness
- Skin changes (i.e. acne, stretch marks, slow healing)
- In females, vaginal yeast infection (i.e. itching and/or discharge)

What Signs or Symptoms Should I See a Healthcare Provider Immediately for While on This Medication?

- **Signs of a life threatening reaction:** wheezing, chest tightness, fever, itching, severe cough, blue skin color, swelling of face/lips/tongue/throat
- **Signs or symptoms of infection:** fever of 100.5 or higher, chills, severe sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, increased sputum or change in color, painful urination, mouth sores, wounds that won't heal, anal itching or pain
- **Feeling extremely tired, weak, or irritable**
- **Difficulty breathing**

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- Severe nausea or vomiting
- Significant weight gain
- Sudden change in vision
- Exposure to chickenpox if not previously vaccinated or had disease
- Rash
- No improvement in condition or feeling worse

Test Results and Advice Nurse

Please call the nurse for test results and advice: 863-4463

Appointments

Appointments can be made online via the UHS website, by phone or in person. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call and cancel. Otherwise you will be charged for the visit.

To schedule or cancel appointments call 863-0774 or schedule your appointment online through the UHS website

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