

[Home](#) > [Drugs A to Z](#) > [Medrol Dosepak](#)[Print](#) [Share](#)Knee Problem? [Assess your knee pain](#) and find relief.

Medrol Dosepak

Generic Name: [methylprednisolone](#) (oral) (METH il pred NIS oh lone)Brand Name: *Medrol, Medrol Dosepak, MethylPREDNISolone Dose Pack*[Overview](#)[Side Effects](#)[Dosage](#)[Interactions](#)[More](#)

What is Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

Methylprednisolone is a steroid that prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

Methylprednisolone is used to treat many different inflammatory conditions such as arthritis, lupus, psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, allergic disorders, gland (endocrine) disorders, and conditions that affect the skin, eyes, lungs, stomach, nervous system, or blood cells.

Methylprednisolone may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

ADVERTISEMENT

What is the most important information I should know about Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

You should not use this medication if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

You should not use methylprednisolone if you are allergic to it, or if you have a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Methylprednisolone can weaken your immune system, making it easier for you to get an infection. Steroids can also worsen an infection you already have, or reactivate an infection you recently had. Tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

To make sure methylprednisolone is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- heart disease, high blood pressure;
- kidney or liver disease (especially cirrhosis);
- a history of tuberculosis;
- a parasite infection (pinworms);
- glaucoma or cataracts;
- a recent head injury;
- stomach ulcers, ulcerative colitis, or diverticulitis;
- a thyroid disorder;
- low bone mineral density (steroid medication can increase your risk of bone loss);
- depression or mental illness;
- a muscle disorder such as myasthenia gravis;
- seizures or epilepsy;
- low levels of potassium in your blood;
- high levels of calcium in the blood related to cancer (also called hypercalcemia of malignancy);
- if you use insulin or oral diabetes medication; or
- if you take aspirin on a daily basis or at high doses.

It is not known whether methylprednisolone will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medication.

It is not known whether methylprednisolone passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Tell your



SLIDESHOW

[21 Arthritis Facts: It's A Game Changer](#)

doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Steroids can affect growth in children. Talk with your doctor if you think your child is not growing at a normal rate while using this medication.

ADVERTISEMENT

How should I take Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

If you have major surgery or a severe injury or infection, your methylprednisolone dose needs may change. Make sure any doctor caring for you knows you are taking this medicine.

Steroid medication can weaken your immune system, making it easier for you to get an infection. Call your doctor if you have any signs of infection (fever, chills, body aches).

You should not stop using methylprednisolone suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Wear a medical alert tag or carry an ID card stating that you take methylprednisolone. Any medical care provider who treats you should know that you take steroid medication.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss a dose of methylprednisolone.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

An overdose of methylprednisolone is not expected to produce life threatening symptoms. However, long term use of high steroid doses can lead to symptoms such as thinning skin, easy bruising, changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your face, neck, back, and waist), increased acne or facial hair, menstrual problems, impotence, or loss of interest in sex.

What should I avoid while taking Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

Grapefruit and grapefruit juice may interact with methylprednisolone and lead to unwanted side effects. Avoid the use of grapefruit products while taking methylprednisolone.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using methylprednisolone. Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), rotavirus, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), zoster (shingles), and nasal flu (influenza) vaccine.

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chicken pox or measles. These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using steroid medication.

Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone) side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- blurred vision, tunnel vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights;
- shortness of breath (even with mild exertion), swelling, rapid weight gain;
- severe depression, changes in personality, unusual thoughts or behavior;
- new or unusual pain in an arm or leg or in your back;
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- seizure (convulsions); or
- low potassium (confusion, uneven heart rate, extreme thirst, increased urination, leg discomfort, muscle weakness or limp feeling).

Common side effects may include:

- headache;
- mild muscle pain or weakness; or
- stomach discomfort, bloating.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Side effects \(in more detail\)](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

What other drugs will affect Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)?

Other drugs may interact with methylprednisolone, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use now and any medicine you start or stop using.

Next → [Side Effects](#)



[Add to My Med List](#)

More about Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)

- [Side Effects](#)
- [During Pregnancy or Breastfeeding](#)
- [Dosage Information](#)
- [Drug Interactions](#)
- [Support Group](#)
- [Pricing & Coupons](#)
- [En Español](#)
- [12 Reviews – Add your own review/rating](#)
- [Drug class: glucocorticoids](#)

Consumer resources

- [Medrol Dosepak \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands: [Medrol](#), [MethylPREDNISolone Dose Pack](#), [Solu-Medrol](#), [Depo-Medrol](#), [More...](#) (2)

Professional resources

- [Methylprednisolone Sodium Succinate \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)
- [Methylprednisolone Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Allergic Rhinitis](#)
- [Inflammatory Conditions](#)
- [Asthma](#)
- [Adrenogenital Syndrome](#)
- [More...](#) (10)

Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about methylprednisolone.
- Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

- Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is accurate, up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise. Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Copyright 1996-2012 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 8.01.

Last reviewed: April 03, 2014

Date modified: March 02, 2017

DRUG STATUS



Availability
Prescription only



Pregnancy Category
Risk depends on usage



CSA Schedule
Not a controlled drug



Diagnosed with mod/sev
psoriatic arthritis?

[Learn about biologics >](#)

Drug Class

[Glucocorticoids](#)

Related Drugs

Inflammatory Conditions

[prednisone](#), [dexamethasone](#), [prednisolone](#), [hydrocortisone](#), [Medrol](#), [betamethasone](#), [More...](#)

Allergic Rhinitis

[prednisone](#), [Zyrtec](#), [promethazine](#), [fluticasone nasal](#), [loratadine](#), [Flonase](#), [More...](#)

Asthma

[prednisone](#), [montelukast](#), [triamcinolone](#), [Singular](#), [ipratropium](#), [Dulera](#), [More...](#)

Asthma, acute

[albuterol](#), [Ventolin](#), [ProAir HFA](#), [dexamethasone](#), [prednisolone](#), [hydrocortisone](#), [More...](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[10 more conditions...](#) □

FDA CONSUMER UPDATES

[Depression: FDA-Approved Medications May Help](#)

[Dealing with ADHD: What You Need to Know](#)

[Making Decisions for Your Health: Getting the Info You Need](#)

[FDA: Cutting-Edge Technology Sheds Light on Antibiotic Resistance](#)

[More FDA updates](#) □

Medrol Dosepak Rating

[12 User Reviews](#)

9.1/10

Related News and Articles

[Secondhand Smoke Linked to Food Allergies in Kids](#)

March 6, 2017

[Asthma Much More Lethal for Black Children, Study Finds](#)

March 4, 2017

[Can Mom's Vitamin E Head Off Child's Asthma Risk?](#)

March 4, 2017

Related Questions & Answers

[What is the mg for medrol dosepak?](#)

[Medrol Dosepak - Can a patient take methylpred on a daily basis?](#)

[Medrol Dosepak - Is there usually a risk of weight gain with just taking the one pak of Medrol?](#)

[I'm havin very bad leg pains is this normal?](#)

[What is the exact dosage and administration guidelines for medrol dosepak?](#)

[Read more questions](#) □

ADVERTISEMENT

Drugs.com Mobile Apps

The easiest way to lookup drug information, identify pills, check interactions and set up your own personal medication records. Available for Android and iOS devices.

[Explore Apps](#)

SUPPORT

[Help Center](#)

[Frequent Questions](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact Us](#)

ABOUT

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising Policy](#)

[Content Submissions](#)

[Drugs.com Blog](#)

TERMS & PRIVACY

[Editorial Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Attribution & Citations](#)



[Subscribe](#) to receive email notifications whenever new articles are published.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex® (updated Mar 2nd, 2017), Cerner Multum™ (updated Mar 2nd, 2017), Wolters Kluwer™ (updated Mar 1st, 2017) and others. To view content sources and attributions, please refer to our [editorial policy](#).



Ad Choices



We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information - [verify here](#)

Copyright © 2000-2017 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

[Share on GooglePlus](#)

[Email to a friend](#)

[Hide](#)