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Medrol Dosepak

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

- Overview
- Side Effects
- Dosage
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What is 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](#).

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Related Information

- Rx** **Availability**
Prescription only
- C** **Pregnancy Category**
Risk cannot be ruled out
- N/A** **CSA Schedule**
Not a controlled drug

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Glucocorticoids

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methylprednisolone?

You should not use this medication if you have a fungal infection anywhere in [your body](#).

Slideshow: What is Asthma? Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking methylprednisolone?

You should not use methylprednisolone if you are allergic to it, or if you have a fungal



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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 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.

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How should I take 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 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.

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;

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- 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)

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What other drugs will affect 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.

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More about Medrol Dosepak (methylprednisolone)

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Consumer resources

- [Medrol Dosepak](#) (Advanced Reading)
- *Other brands:* [Solu-Medrol](#), [Medrol](#), [MethylPREDNISolone Dose Pack](#), [Depo-Medrol](#), [More \(8\)](#)

Professional resources

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

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- [Asthma. Maintenance](#)
- [Adrenogenital Syndrome](#)
- [Asthma. acute](#)
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Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about methylprednisolone.

Drug Addiction Rehab

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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.

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