



Pediatric Drug Information

PREDNISONE & PREDNISOLONE (pred ni sone & pred ni so lone)

Why is this drug prescribed?

- Prednisone, a steroid, is similar to a natural hormone produced by your adrenal glands. It relieves inflammation. It is also used to treat certain types of cancer, severe allergies, and reactive airway disease (asthma).

When should it be used?

- If you give prednisone once a day, give it in the morning. If you give prednisone more than once a day, give it at evenly spaced intervals between the time the child wakes up in the morning and bedtime.
- Do not stop giving prednisone abruptly. Follow the weaning schedule outlined by your doctor.

How should it be used?

- Prednisone comes in tablets and liquid. You may obtain a specially marked measuring spoon from your pharmacist to be sure of an accurate dose of the liquid.
- For easier administration, you may request tablets which you can crush instead of giving a large amount of liquid.
- This drug is foul tasting. You may mix this drug with a **SMALL** amount of fruit juice or semisolid food (e.g., applesauce or ice cream).

What special instructions should I follow when giving this drug?

- Keep all appointments with your doctor. Checkups are particularly important for children because prednisone can cause long term effects.

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

- Your doctor may instruct you to follow a special diet.

What should I do if I forget to give a dose?

- If you give prednisone once a day, give the missed dose as soon as you remember it. If you do not remember a missed dose until it is time for your next dose, omit the missed dose completely and take only the regularly scheduled dose.
- If you take more than one dose a day, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it; then take any remaining doses for that day at evenly spaced intervals.

What side effects can this drug cause? What can I do about them?

Although side effects from this drug are not common, they can occur.

- Stomach upset can occur. If so, give with food or milk.
- If your child's stool becomes black and tarry, contact your doctor.
- Headache, dizziness, unusual moods, acne, reddened face, easy bruising, tiny purple skin spots. If these effects persist or are severe, contact your doctor.
- Skin irritation, itching, or swelling (allergic reaction). Contact your doctor at once.
- Long term therapy problems: Increased sweating, increased hair growth, weight gain, swollen feet or ankles, muscle pain and weakness, eye pain, vision problems, puffy skin (especially face), a cold or infection that lasts a long time. Contact your doctor.

What other precautions should I follow when giving this drug?

- Your doctor should be aware of your child's current medical condition, medical history, and drug reactions. Your doctor should know all of the medications your child is currently taking including all non-prescription drugs.
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.
- Do not have a vaccination, other immunization, or any skin test while you are taking prednisone unless your doctor specifically tells you that you may.

What storage conditions are necessary for this drug?

- Keep this medication in the container it came in.
- Be sure to keep all medications out of the reach of children.
- Store at room temperature in a cool place.