

MEDICATION INFO SHEET

PREDNISONE (PRED-ni-sone)

Other Names for this Medication: Apo-Prednisone®, Novo-Prednisone®, Winpred®, Deltasone® (*Brand Names*)

Appearance:

Round, white tablets containing 1mg, 5mg or 50mg Prednisone - Other brands may have a different appearance.

Why this Medication is Used:

Prednisone has many different uses. It is used for the treatment of many different cancers, and is usually given along with other anticancer drugs. It may also be used to reduce swelling and pain or to stimulate appetite.

How do you take this Medication:

Prednisone tablets should be taken with a full glass of water (8oz), **along with food**. If the tablet(s) are only taken once daily, taking them in the morning right after breakfast is best.

Precautions:

- Prednisone may hide the signs of an infection. Infections from fungus and viruses are possible. Watch for fever, fuzzy coating in your mouth, or any other signs of infection and make sure you contact your doctor if you have any of these symptoms.
- Tell your doctor if you have any type of diabetes, or high blood sugar.
- If you have diabetes, you should monitor your blood sugar level closely. Prednisone may increase blood sugar levels. If you notice a change in the results of your blood sugar tests, check with your doctor.
- It is important to tell your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, as some conditions may affect therapy with this medication.
- Do not stop taking prednisone without first checking with your doctor. Your doctor may want to lower your dose slowly before stopping the drug.
- Inform your doctor and pharmacist about all other medications you are taking. Do not start or stop taking any medications without first checking with your doctor and pharmacist.
- Due to the increased risk of developing an infection, check with your doctor before having any vaccinations. Also check with your doctor before any surgery or dental work is done.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.
- Alcohol increases the chance of stomach upset when taking this drug. You may need to avoid alcoholic beverages if this becomes a problem.
- Store away from heat, light, and moisture. *Keep out of the reach of children.*

SIDE EFFECTS

PREVENTION

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

MORE COMMON:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of infection. Signs include fever, chills, cough, sore throat. • Some signs of infection may be masked by this drug
 • Mood changes, shortness of breath (especially with higher doses) • Fluid retention • Weight gain • Weakness, decrease in muscle size | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit contact with people who have colds, flu, or other infection. Rest often. Wash your hands often with soap and water. • Watch closely for signs of infection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep a thermometer at home. Recognize signs of infection. Phone your doctor right away if your temperature is over 38° C or 100° F. You may need antibiotics.
 • Check with your doctor or nurse if these symptoms bother you. • Check with your doctor, nurse or dietician concerning your diet. • Tell your doctor or nurse if these symptoms bother you. |
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LESS COMMON:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision changes • Frequent urination • Increased thirst and appetite (sign of increased blood sugar) • Stomach upset | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as possible. |
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RARE:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion • Excitement • Mood swings • Restlessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid taking at bedtime. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your doctor or nurse as soon as possible. |
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