



PATIENT FACT SHEET

Prednisone (Deltasone)



WHAT IS IT?

Prednisone (Deltasone) is part of a potent class of anti-inflammatory agents, known as corticosteroids, which are used to control inflammation of the joints and organs. It is often used to treat a variety

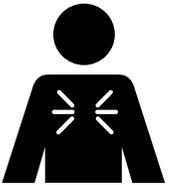
of inflammatory conditions, including redness, swelling and pain. Prednisone is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, vasculitis, and many other inflammatory diseases.



HOW TO TAKE IT

Dosing of prednisone varies widely depending on the state of the disease being treated. Doses used in rheumatoid arthritis are commonly 5-10mg daily, while doses needed in lupus and vasculitis are often 80mg daily, or sometimes higher. Prednisone usually achieves its effect within 1-2 hours. The delayed release

tablets take effect about 6 hours after taking the dose. Prednisone stops working soon after stopping the medication. If you have been taking prednisone regularly for longer than 2 weeks, do not stop it suddenly. Instead, you should discuss a tapering schedule with your physician.



SIDE EFFECTS

Most side effects are related to the dose administered and duration of treatment, so the goal is to use it at the lowest effective dose for the shortest period of time necessary. Some potential side effects include easy bruising, osteoporosis (or weakened bones), diabetes, hypertension, weight gain, cataracts, glaucoma, and a bone disorder called avascular necrosis. Although prednisone rarely has a direct interaction with other

medications, there is an increased risk of infection when combining prednisone with other medications that affect your immune system. Additionally, when taking prednisone with NSAIDs (such as naproxen or ibuprofen), there can be an increased risk of stomach ulcers. Make sure to review all of your medications with your physician at each visit.



TELL YOUR DOCTOR

Your doctor will monitor you for side effects. Be sure to discuss any new symptoms you are experiencing with your doctor. Talk to your doctor about which vaccines are appropriate for you, as it depends on your dose of prednisone. If you are pregnant or are considering pregnancy, discuss this with your doctor before starting medication. Although prednisone can be necessary to use during pregnancy, complications can include still

birth, and premature delivery. Babies born from women receiving large doses of corticosteroids during pregnancy can develop under active adrenal glands and also can be smaller than expected at birth. Babies can develop cleft lip and cleft palate as well. Although some of the drug passes into breast milk, prednisone appears to be safe while breastfeeding.