



What do I need to know about Corticosteroids?

(say “kor-tih-koh-STAIR-oids”)

Other names for this medicine include: prednisone, hydrocortisone, and dexamethasone

Medicine is one of the tools your doctor has to treat your lupus. Taking medicine as your doctor suggests will improve your lupus. And it may prevent more serious health problems in the future. If you don't take your medicines correctly, you may be putting your health, and perhaps your life, at risk.

Why am I taking this medicine?

To control the signs and symptoms of your lupus so that you feel better quickly. We use this medicine for short periods at high doses. This allows other medicines time to work. (This medicine is not the same as the steroids used illegally by some athletes to build muscles.)

How fast does it work?

Corticosteroids work quickly. You may notice some symptoms start to get better within a few days.

I'm feeling better. Can I stop taking my medicine?

No, even if you're feeling better, keep taking your medicine. Do not stop unless your doctor says it's O.K. to stop.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects are unplanned symptoms (signs) or feelings you have when taking a medicine. Some side effects happen just when you start taking a medicine. Some happen only once in a while.

The side effects are related to how much medicine you take and how long you take it.

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Keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Never share your medicines with others. Use this medicine only for the reason your doctor said to.

What follow-up do I need?

You will have regular blood work. It is important to have the blood work done. This is how your doctor checks for side effects.