

# Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Solution for injection

## U.S. Trade Names

Decadron • DoubleDex • Simplist Dexamethasone • Solurex

The list of names may not include all products that are available on the market.

## What is this medicine?

DEXAMETHASONE (dex a METH a sone) is a corticosteroid. It is used to treat inflammation of the skin, joints, lungs, and other organs. Common conditions treated include asthma, allergies, and arthritis. It is also used for other conditions, like blood disorders and diseases of the adrenal glands.

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your health care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

## What should I tell my health care provider before I take this medicine?

They need to know if you have any of these conditions:

- Cushing's syndrome
- diabetes
- glaucoma
- heart disease
- high blood pressure
- infection like herpes, measles, tuberculosis, or chickenpox
- kidney disease
- liver disease
- mental illness
- myasthenia gravis
- osteoporosis
- previous heart attack
- seizures
- stomach or intestine problems
- thyroid disease
- an unusual or allergic reaction to dexamethasone, corticosteroids, other medicines, lactose, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- breast-feeding

## How should I use this medicine?

This medicine is for injection into a muscle, joint, lesion, soft tissue, or vein. It is given by a health care professional in a hospital or clinic setting.

Talk to your pediatrician regarding the use of this medicine in children. Special care may be needed.

Overdosage: If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once. NOTE: This medicine is only for you. Do not share this medicine with others.

## What if I miss a dose?

This may not apply. If you are having a series of injections over a prolonged period, try not to miss an appointment. Call your doctor or health care professional to reschedule if you are unable to keep an appointment.

### **What may interact with this medicine?**

Do not take this medicine with any of the following medications:

- live virus vaccines

This medicine may also interact with the following medications:

- aminoglutethimide
- amphotericin B
- aspirin and aspirin-like medicines
- certain antibiotics like erythromycin, clarithromycin, and troleandomycin
- certain antivirals for HIV or hepatitis
- certain medicines for seizures like carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin
- certain medicines to treat myasthenia gravis
- cholestyramine
- cyclosporine
- digoxin
- diuretics
- ephedrine
- female hormones, like estrogen or progestins and birth control pills
- insulin or other medicines for diabetes
- isoniazid
- ketoconazole
- medicines that relax muscles for surgery
- mifepristone
- NSAIDs, medicines for pain and inflammation, like ibuprofen or naproxen
- rifampin
- skin tests for allergies
- thalidomide
- vaccines
- warfarin

This list may not describe all possible interactions. Give your health care provider a list of all the medicines, herbs, non-prescription drugs, or dietary supplements you use. Also tell them if you smoke, drink alcohol, or use illegal drugs. Some items may interact with your medicine.

### **What side effects may I notice from receiving this medicine?**

Side effects that you should report to your doctor or health care professional as soon as possible:

- allergic reactions like skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue
- bloody or black, tarry stools
- changes in emotions or moods
- changes in vision
- confusion, excitement, restlessness
- depressed mood
- eye pain

- hallucinations
- muscle weakness
- severe or sudden stomach or belly pain
- signs and symptoms of high blood sugar such as being more thirsty or hungry or having to urinate more than normal. You may also feel very tired or have blurry vision.
- signs and symptoms of infection like fever; chills; cough; sore throat; pain or trouble passing urine
- swelling of ankles, feet
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- wounds that do not heal

Side effects that usually do not require medical attention (report to your doctor or health care professional if they continue or are bothersome):

- increased appetite
- increased growth of face or body hair
- headache
- nausea, vomiting
- pain, redness, or irritation at site where injected
- skin problems, acne, thin and shiny skin
- trouble sleeping
- weight gain

This list may not describe all possible side effects. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**What should I watch for while using this medicine?**

Visit your health care professional for regular checks on your progress. Tell your health care professional if your symptoms do not start to get better or if they get worse. Your condition will be monitored carefully while you are receiving this medicine.

Wear a medical ID bracelet or chain. Carry a card that describes your disease and details of your medicine and dosage times.

This medicine may increase your risk of getting an infection. Call your health care professional for advice if you get a fever, chills, or sore throat, or other symptoms of a cold or flu. Do not treat yourself. Try to avoid being around people who are sick. Call your health care professional if you are around anyone with measles, chickenpox, or if you develop sores or blisters that do not heal properly.

If you are going to need surgery or other procedures, tell your doctor or health care professional that you have taken this medicine within the last 12 months.

Ask your doctor or health care professional about your diet. You may need to lower the amount of salt you eat.

This medicine may increase blood sugar. Ask your healthcare provider if changes in diet or medicines are needed if you have diabetes.

**Where should I keep my medicine?**

This medicine is given in a hospital or clinic and will not be stored at home.

**NOTE: This sheet is a summary. It may not cover all possible information. If you have questions about this medicine, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or health care provider.**

[Last revised: 07/02/2020]

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