

CORTICOSTEROIDS Glucocorticoid Effects (Systemic)

Introduction

VA CLASSIFICATION (Primary/Secondary)

Betamethasone³/IM403

Budesonide³/HS051

Cortisone³/HS051/

Dexamethasone³/HS051/; GA609; IM403

Hydrocortisone³/HS051/; IM403

Methylprednisolone³/HS051/

Prednisolone³/HS051/

Prednisone³/HS051/; IM403

Triamcinolone³/HS051/

Commonly used brand name(s): A-Hydrocort⁵; A-MethaPred⁶; A-hydroCort⁵; Acetocot⁹; Amcort⁹; Apo-Prednisone⁸; Aristocort⁹; Aristocort Forte⁹; Aristocort Intralesional⁹; Aristopak⁹; Aristospan⁹; Articulose-507; Articulose-L.A.9; Betnesol¹; Celestone¹; Celestone Phosphate¹; Celestone Soluspan¹; Cinalone 409; Cinonide 409; Clinacort⁹; Clinalog⁹; Cordrol⁸; Cortastat⁴; Cortastat 104; Cortastat LA⁴; Cortef⁵; Cortisone Acetate-ICN³; Cortone³; Cortone Acetate³; Cotolone⁷; Dalalone⁴; Dalalone D.P.4; Dalalone L.A.4; Decadrol⁴; Decadron⁴; Decadron Elixir⁴; Decadron Phosphate⁴; Decadron-LA⁴; Decaject⁴; Decaject LA⁴; Delta-Cortef⁷; Deltasone⁸; Depo-Medrol⁶; Depo-Predate⁶; Depoject-406; Depoject-806; Depopred⁶; Deronil⁴; Dexacorten⁴; Dexacorten-LA⁴; Dexamethasone Intensol⁴; Dexasone⁴; Dexasone L.A.4; Dexone⁴; Dexone 0.754; Dexone 1.54; Dexone 44; Dexone LA⁴; Duralone-406; Duralone-806; Entocort²; Hexadrol⁴; Hexadrol Phosphate⁴; Hydrocortone⁵; Hydrocortone Acetate⁵; Hydrocortone Phosphate⁵; Ken-Jec 409; Kenacort⁹; Kenacort Diacetate⁹; Kenaject-409; Kenalog-109; Kenalog-409; Key-Pred⁷; Key-Pred SP⁷; Liquid Pred⁸; Med-Jec-406; Medralone 806; Medrol⁶; Meprolone⁶; Methacort 406; Methacort 806; Methylcotolone⁶; Meticorten⁸; Mymethasone⁴; Nor-Pred T.B.A.7; Oradexon⁴; Orasone 18; Orasone 108; Orasone 208; Orasone 58; Orasone 508; Padiapred⁷; Pred-Ject-507; Pred-Pak 458; Pred-Pak 798; Predacort 507; Predacorten⁶; Predacorten 806; Predalone 507; Predalone T.B.A.7; Predate S⁷; Predate TBA⁷; Predate-507; Predcor-257; Predcor-507; Predcor-TBA⁷; Predicort-RP⁷; Predisone Intensol⁸; Prednicot⁸; Prelone⁷; Primethasone⁴; Robalog⁹; Scheinpharm Triamcine-A9; Selestoject¹; Solu-Cortef⁵; Solu-Medrol⁶; Solurex⁴; Solurex LA⁴; Sterapred⁸; Sterapred DS⁸; Tac-39; Tramacort-D⁹; Tri-Kort⁹; Triam-A9; Triam-Forte⁹; Triamolone 409; Triamonide 409; Trilog⁹; Trilone⁹; Tristoject⁹; Winpred⁸; depMedalone 406; depMedalone 806.

Indications

Accepted

Allergic disorders³/Indicated for the treatment of severe or incapacitating allergic disorders intractable to adequate trials of conventional treatment

Allergic reactions, drug-induced (treatment)³/Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable

suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Anaphylactic or anaphylactoid reactions (treatment adjunct)¾Dexamethasone (sodium phosphate injection 33); hydrocortisone (sodium succinate for injection 13); and methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection 45) are indicated as adjunctive treatment in prolonged reactions (those not responding to other forms of treatment within 1 hour), reactions requiring cardiovascular or respiratory resuscitation, or situations in which there is a significant risk of relapse.

Epinephrine is the drug of choice for this indication. 33, 45

Angioedema (treatment adjunct)¾Betamethasone (tablets 61) is indicated as an adjunct in the treatment of angioedema. Treatment should be initiated with intramuscular or intravenous administration of a rapid-acting preparation.

Edema, laryngeal, acute noninfectious (treatment adjunct)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5); dexamethasone (sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection 13); and methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection 18, 43) are indicated as adjuncts in the treatment of acute noninfectious laryngeal edema. Treatment should be initiated with intramuscular or intravenous administration of a rapid-acting preparation.

Epinephrine is the drug of choice for this indication. 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, 26, 30, 43

Rhinitis, allergic, perennial or seasonal, severe (treatment) ¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 58, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension, 51 tablets 49).

Serum sickness (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Transfusion reactions, urticarial (treatment)¾ Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection 13); and methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection 18, 43) are indicated in the treatment of urticarial transfusion reactions. Treatment should be initiated with intramuscular or intravenous administration of a rapid-acting preparation.

Collagen disorders^{3/4}Indicated during an acute exacerbation or as maintenance therapy

Arteritis, giant cell (treatment)^{3/4}Methylprednisolone (tablets 41); and prednisone (tablets 47).

Carditis, rheumatic [or nonrheumatic] *, acute (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (oral solution, tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatomyositis, systemic (polymyositis) (treatment)^{3/4}Cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); and prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48).

Lupus erythematosus, systemic (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

[Connective tissue disease, mixed (treatment)] *

[Polyarteritis nodosa (treatment)] *

[Polychondritis, relapsing (treatment)] * and

[Vasculitis (treatment)] *^{3/4}Betamethasone; cortisone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; prednisone; and triamcinolone.

[Depression, mental, endogenous (diagnosis)] *^{3/4}Dexamethasone is indicated to diagnose endogenous depression and to evaluate the efficacy of treatment. Dexamethasone reduces plasma cortisol to a greater extent in control subjects than in hospitalized patients with diagnosed depression; values return toward those of control subjects as the patient responds to therapy. However, the dexamethasone suppression test is less sensitive in patients with mild to moderate depression. Also, many medications, medical problems, and other psychiatric disorders have been reported to interfere with the test results. The Health and Public Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians recommends that the dexamethasone suppression test not be used as a screening test for depression.

Dermatologic disorders

Alopecia areata (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Dermatitis, atopic (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatitis, contact (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatitis, exfoliative (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatitis herpetiformis, bullous (treatment)¼ Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 30 tablets 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatitis, seborrheic, severe (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Dermatoses, inflammatory, severe (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (tablets 58) and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension, 51 tablets 49).

Erythema multiforme, severe (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) (treatment) ^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Granuloma annulare (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10) methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Keloids (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Lichen planus (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Lichen simplex chronicus (neurodermatitis) (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Lupus erythematosus, discoid (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Mycosis fungoides (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Necrobiosis lipoidica diabetorum (treatment)^{3/4} Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection

8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

Pemphigus (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Psoriasis, severe (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Psoriatic plaques (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 3); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 sodium phosphate injection 8, 33); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension 10); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension 26); and triamcinolone (acetate injectable suspension 50).

[Eczema, severe (treatment)]¾Betamethasone (tablets 58); cortisone *; dexamethasone *; hydrocortisone *; methylprednisolone *; prednisolone *; prednisone *; and triamcinolone *.

[Pemphigoid (treatment)] *¾Betamethasone; cortisone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; prednisone; and triamcinolone.

[Sarcoid, localized cutaneous (treatment)] *¾Betamethasone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; and triamcinolone.

Endocrine disorders

Adrenocortical insufficiency, acute (treatment) and

Adrenocortical insufficiency, chronic primary (Addison's disease) (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated in the treatment of adrenocortical insufficiency. However, hydrocortisone and cortisone are preferred as replacement therapy 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 36, 37, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 61 because of their significant mineralocorticoid activity. A rapid-acting preparation should be administered intramuscularly or intravenously initially.

Administration of sodium (as dietary salt) and fluids also is required. In some patients, additional mineralocorticoid replacement also may be necessary. Rarely, a patient will have only a glucocorticoid deficiency and will not require mineralocorticoid or sodium supplementation.

Adrenocortical insufficiency, secondary (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated in the treatment of secondary adrenocortical insufficiency. Glucocorticoid replacement usually is sufficient. Mineralocorticoid replacement is not always required.

Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); and prednisone (oral solution, tablets 46, 47, 48) are indicated to reduce the virilization caused by enzyme deficiency-induced adrenal androgen hypersecretion. Corticosteroid and supplemental therapy depend upon the enzyme deficiency involved and the form of disease present. In salt-losing forms, hydrocortisone or cortisone plus increased sodium intake may be preferred. However, additional mineralocorticoid supplementation may be required. In salt-retaining or hypertensive forms, a glucocorticoid having minimal mineralocorticoid activity is preferred. However, long-acting glucocorticoids are best avoided because of the increased risk of growth retardation and difficulty in dosage adjustment.

Cushing's syndrome (diagnosis)^{3/4}Dexamethasone (elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33, 60 tablets 7, 25, 34) is indicated in the diagnosis of Cushing's syndrome and to distinguish Cushing's syndrome caused by excessive corticotropin secretion from that due to other causes.

Hypercalcemia associated with neoplasms [or sarcoidosis] * (treatment)^{3/4} Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and trimacinolone (tablets 49).

Thyroiditis, nonsuppurative (treatment)^{3/4}Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41);

prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Gastrointestinal disorders

Colitis, ulcerative (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 58, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43, 45 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated when systemic therapy is required during a critical period of the disease. Long-term use is not recommended.

Crohn's disease (regional enteritis) (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated when systemic therapy is required during a critical period of the disease. Long-term use is not recommended.

Budesonide (capsules) is indicated for the induction and maintenance of remission in patients with mild to moderate Crohn's disease affecting the ileum and/or the ascending colon. 29

[Sprue, refractory (treatment)]¼Betamethasone (tablets 61).

Hematologic disorders

Anemia, hemolytic, acquired (autoimmune) (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Anemia, hypoplastic, congenital (erythroid) (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Anemia, red blood cell (erythroblastopenia) (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Thrombocytopenia, secondary, in adults (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (tablets 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Thrombocytopenic purpura, idiopathic, in adults (treatment)¼Betamethasone (syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (tablets 31); dexamethasone (elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

[Hemolysis (treatment)] *¼Betamethasone; cortisone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; prednisone; and triamcinolone.

[Hepatic disease] *¼Use is controversial

[Hepatitis, alcoholic, with encephalopathy (treatment)] *

[Hepatitis, chronic, active (treatment)] *

[Hepatitis, nonalcoholic, in women (treatment)] * and

[Necrosis, hepatic, subacute (treatment)] *¼Methylprednisolone; prednisolone; and prednisone.

Inflammatory disorders, nonrheumatic¼Indicated during an acute episode or exacerbation. Local injections are preferred when only a few joints or areas are involved

Bursitis, acute or subacute (treatment)¼Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3, 39 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 10 cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48

); and triamcinolone (acetone injectable suspension, 50, 51 hexacetonide injectable suspension, 54 tablets 49).

Epicondylitis (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 10 cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (acetone injectable suspension, 50, 51 hexacetonide injectable suspension, 54 tablets 49).

Tenosynovitis, acute nonspecific (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3, 39 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 10 cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (acetone injectable suspension, 50, 51 hexacetonide injectable suspension, 54 tablets 49).

[Fibrositis (treatment)] and

[Myositis (treatment)]¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension 39) and dexamethasone (sodium phosphate injection 60).

[Nausea and vomiting, cancer chemotherapy-induced (prophylaxis)]¾Dexamethasone (sodium phosphate injection, 33 tablets 34); [hydrocortisone] *; and [prednisone] * are indicated to prevent nausea and vomiting induced by antineoplastic agents. The medication is administered prior to and following each course of chemotherapy. However, the advisability of administering a potent glucocorticoid to a cancer patient, unless indicated for palliation of the disease, has been questioned. Although an increased incidence of infection has not been reported in patients receiving such therapy, the possibility must be considered.

The combination of dexamethasone plus ondansetron has been shown to provide better emetic control over cisplatin-induced emesis than ondansetron alone. 65, 87, 88, 89

Neoplastic disease¾Indicated in conjunction with appropriate specific antineoplastic disease therapy for palliative management

Leukemia, acute or chronic lymphocytic (treatment) 80¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (oral solution, tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Lymphomas, Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's (treatment) 80%
Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia (treatment) 80, 81, 82%
Prednisone. 81

[Carcinoma, breast (treatment)] * 80

[Carcinoma, prostatic (treatment)] * 80

[Fever, due to malignancy (treatment adjunct)] *

[Multiple myeloma (treatment)] * 80 and

[Tumors, brain, primary (treatment adjunct)] * 83%
Betamethasone; cortisone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; prednisone; and triamcinolone.

Nephrotic syndrome (treatment)%
Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 58); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (oral solution, tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated to induce diuresis or remission of proteinuria in idiopathic nephrotic syndrome (without uremia), and to improve renal function in patients with lupus erythematosus. In idiopathic nephrotic syndrome, long-term therapy may be required to prevent frequent relapses.

Neurologic disease

Meningitis, tuberculous (treatment adjunct)%
Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated in patients with concurrent or impending subarachnoid block.

The corticosteroid should be administered concurrently with appropriate antituberculosis chemotherapy.

Multiple sclerosis (treatment)¾Hydrocortisone (tablets 36, 40); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup); prednisone (oral solution, tablets 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49) are indicated in acute exacerbations of the disease.

[Myasthenia gravis (treatment)] *¾Betamethasone; cortisone; dexamethasone; hydrocortisone; methylprednisolone; prednisolone; prednisone; and triamcinolone are indicated for treatment of severe cases not controlled by anticholinergic agents alone. Glucocorticoid therapy may be more effective following thymectomy and in patients having disease onset after 40 years of age. Long-term therapy may be required.

Neurotrauma

Edema, cerebral, especially when associated with primary or metastatic brain tumor, craniotomy, or head injury ([prophylaxis] * and treatment)¾Dexamethasone (elixir, oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection 45); and [prednisone] * are indicated to prevent neurosurgery-associated cerebral edema and to treat edema caused by glioblastomas or metastatic brain tumors. These medications may be less effective in treating edema caused by astrocytomas or meningiomas. Efficacy in closed head injury or ischemic brain edema has not been established. Because very high doses are required, only those glucocorticoids having little or no mineralocorticoid activity should be used.

[Ischemia, cerebral (treatment)] *¾Dexamethasone.

[Pseudotumor cerebri (treatment)] *¾Dexamethasone.

[Spinal cord injury, acute (treatment)]¾Methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for injection 45) is indicated in the treatment of spinal cord injury. A large study concluded that patients receiving high-dose methylprednisolone therapy within 8 hours of acute spinal cord injury recover more motor and sensory function, as compared with those receiving naloxone or placebo. 55, 66 However, methylprednisolone did not improve patient prognosis when it was administered more than 8 hours after the spinal cord injury. 55, 66

Ophthalmic disorders¾Indicated in the treatment of severe acute or chronic allergic and inflammatory ophthalmic conditions

Chorioretinitis (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Choroiditis, posterior, diffuse (treatment)¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (sodium succinate for

injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Conjunctivitis, allergic (not controlled topically) (treatment) ¾Betamethasone (sodium phosphate and acetate injectable suspension, 3 syrup, 1 tablets 27, 61); cortisone (acetate injectable suspension, 4, 30 tablets 5, 31); dexamethasone (acetate injectable suspension, 9 elixir, 6 oral solution, 25 sodium phosphate injection, 8, 33 tablets 7, 25, 34); hydrocortisone (cypionate oral suspension, 44 sodium phosphate injection, 12 sodium succinate for injection, 13 tablets 11, 36, 37); methylprednisolone (acetate injectable suspension, 26 sodium succinate for injection, 18, 43 tablets 28, 41); prednisolone (sodium phosphate oral solution, 19 syrup 21); prednisone (tablets 46, 47, 48); and triamcinolone (tablets 49).

Precautions to Consider

Pregnancy/Reproduction

Fertility¾Corticosteroids have been reported to increase or decrease the number or motility of spermatozoa. 4, 6, 10, 20, 30, 33, 58 However, it is not known whether reproductive capacity in humans is adversely affected.

Pregnancy¾For corticosteroids¾

Corticosteroids cross the placenta. 29, 36, 42, 47 Although adequate studies have not been done in humans, there is some evidence that pharmacologic doses of corticosteroids may increase the risk of placental insufficiency, decreased birthweight, or stillbirth. However, teratogenic effects in humans have not been confirmed.

Prenatal administration of betamethasone or dexamethasone to the pregnant woman to prevent respiratory distress syndrome in the premature neonate has not been shown to affect the child's growth or development adversely. Physiologic replacement doses of corticosteroids administered for treatment of maternal adrenal insufficiency also are unlikely to adversely affect the fetus or neonate.

Studies in animals have shown that corticosteroids increase the incidence of cleft palate, 20, 50 placental insufficiency, spontaneous abortions, and intrauterine growth retardation.

FDA Pregnancy Category C (Prednisolone). 19

For budesonide¾

High doses of budesonide administered subcutaneously produced fetal malformations (primarily skeletal defects) in rabbits, rats, and mice. However, the relevance of these findings to humans has not been established. 29

Breast-feeding

For corticosteroids¾Problems in humans have not been documented. Administration of physiologic doses or low pharmacologic doses (the equivalent or less of 25 mg of cortisone or 5 mg of prednisone per day) is not considered likely to affect the infant adversely. Less than 1% of the administered dose of prednisolone is distributed into breast milk. 19 However, breast-feeding during the use of higher pharmacologic doses is not recommended because corticosteroids are distributed into breast milk 4, 6, 10, 20, 29, 30, 33, 36, 42, 47, 50 and may cause unwanted effects, such as growth suppression and inhibition of endogenous steroid production, in the infant. 4, 6, 10, 30, 33, 50

Pediatrics

Infants born to women who have received substantial doses of corticosteroids during pregnancy should be carefully observed for signs of hypoadrenalism 3, 4, 6, 10, 18, 20, 21, 29, 30, 33, 36, 42, 46, 47, 50, 58 and replacement therapy should be administered as required. 3

Because infections such as chickenpox or measles may be more serious (or even fatal) in children receiving immunosuppressant doses of corticosteroids, extra care to avoid exposure to these infections is recommended. 3, 4, 10, 18, 20, 21, 33, 36, 46, 50 Prophylactic therapy with varicella zoster immune globulin (VZIG) or immune globulin intravenous (IGIV) or intramuscular (IGIM), as appropriate, may be indicated in exposed patients. 3, 4, 6, 10, 18, 20, 21, 29, 33, 36, 46, 50, 58 Therapy with an antiviral agent may be indicated if chickenpox develops. 3, 4, 6, 10, 18, 20, 21, 29, 33, 36, 46, 50

Chronic use of corticosteroids may suppress growth and development of the pediatric or adolescent patient and should be undertaken with caution. 42, 47 Use of long-acting glucocorticoids (betamethasone and dexamethasone) or daily doses of any corticosteroid that are larger than replacement therapy doses are especially likely to inhibit growth and are not recommended for any form of chronic therapy. For long-term therapy, a short-acting agent (cortisone or hydrocortisone) or an intermediate-acting agent (methylprednisolone, prednisolone, prednisone, or triamcinolone) is recommended. Alternate-day therapy with an oral intermediate-acting corticosteroid may decrease growth retardation effects. 42, 47 Some clinicians recommend that only cortisone, hydrocortisone, or prednisone be used for long-term replacement therapy. Also, pediatric patients may be at increased risk of developing osteoporosis, avascular necrosis of the femoral heads, glaucoma, or cataracts during prolonged therapy. Children and adolescents receiving prolonged therapy should be closely monitored. Pediatric dosage is determined more by the severity of the condition and the response of the patient than by age or body weight. 47 Also, for treatment of adrenocortical insufficiency, pediatric dosage is preferably determined in terms of mg per square meter of body surface area. Determination of pediatric dosage in terms of mg per kg of body weight (mg/kg) increases the possibility of overdosage, especially in very young, short, or heavy children.

Geriatrics

Geriatric patients may be more likely to develop hypertension during corticosteroid therapy. 50 Geriatric patients, especially postmenopausal women, also may be more likely to develop glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis.

Drug interactions and/or related problems

The following drug interactions and/or related problems have been selected on the basis of their potential clinical significance (possible mechanism in parentheses where appropriate) ¾ not necessarily inclusive (>> = major clinical significance):

See also Laboratory value alterations.

Note: Combinations containing any of the following medications, depending on the amount present, also may interact with this medication.

Interactions listed below involving alterations in serum potassium concentration and/or changes in sodium or fluid balance are especially likely to occur with corticosteroids having significant mineralocorticoid activity. However, these interactions also may occur with other corticosteroids, depending on dosage and patient predisposition.

Acetaminophen

(induction of hepatic enzymes by corticosteroids may increase the formation of a hepatotoxic acetaminophen metabolite, thereby increasing the risk of hepatotoxicity, when they are used concurrently with chronic or high-dose acetaminophen therapy)

Alcohol or

Anti-inflammatory drugs, nonsteroidal (NSAIDs)

(risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or hemorrhage may be increased when these substances are used concurrently with glucocorticoids; however, concurrent use of NSAIDs in the treatment of arthritis may provide additive therapeutic benefit and permit glucocorticoid dosage reduction)

>> Aminoglutethimide

(aminoglutethimide suppresses adrenal function so that glucocorticoid supplementation may be required; however, aminoglutethimide accelerates the metabolism of dexamethasone so that the half-life of dexamethasone may be reduced twofold; hydrocortisone is recommended instead because its metabolism is not known to be altered by aminoglutethimide and because its mineralocorticoid activity also may be required)

>> Amphotericin B, parenteral 33, 50 or