3. How Depo-Medrone is given to you

Steroid Cards

You should show your card to anyone who gives you treatment (such as a doctor, nurse or pharmacist) so they know you are taking Depo-Medrone. You may also wear a medic-alert bracelet or similar item that identifies you as taking Depo-Medrone if you have an accident or become unconscious.

Dosage information

Your doctor will decide on the dose of injection, how much of the medicine and how many injections are needed. This will depend on the condition being treated and how you respond to treatment. Your doctor will give you the injection, or you may be taught how to give it to yourself. Your doctor will tell you how to use the dose and when you will receive it.

Adults

Your doctor/nurse will tell you how many injections you will need and how often you should be having them for, and when you will get them.

Further information

Depo-Medrone contains methylprednisolone acetate, which is also contained in the injectable preparation Medrone. Intramuscular injections should be made deeply into the gluteal muscles, either by a doctor or nurse, such as in or near a joint, to treat local symptoms caused by inflammatory or rheumatic conditions such as:

- Bursitis: inflammation in the fluid containing spaces around the shoulder, knee, or elbow (also called bursae).
- Osteoarthritis: inflammation located in between the joints. For this condition, this injection will be injected directly into one or more of those spaces.
- Rheumatic disorders and collagen diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, SLE), 40 mg (1 ml) for systemic use (i.e. directly into the blood stream, intravenously or intramuscularly, particularly where oral administration is not possible).
- Keloids (red, swollen and tender veins). A possible adverse effect which can affect the way Depo-Medrone works is an increase in the amount of blood in the joints.
- Skin abscess.
- Myasthenia gravis
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Joint infection
- Infections.

Do not use Depo-Medrone if:

- You have had an allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in this medicine (Section 2 of this leaflet). An allergic reaction may cause a skin rash or reddening.
- You have had a bad reaction to any injection into or near a joint.
- You get a rash, or another symptom of an allergic reaction.

Tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:

- Severe depression or manic depression (bipolar disorder). This includes having had depression before you started Depo-Medrone, having a family history of Depo-Medrone, or having a family history of these diseases.
- If you think you have ever suffered an allergic reaction to this medicine (Section 2 of this leaflet).
- If you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- If you have had any accident or become unconscious.

Further information

- Before you are given Depo-Medrone, tell your doctor:
  - If you think you have ever suffered an allergic reaction to this medicine.
  - If you are pregnant or breast feeding.
  - If you have had any accident or become unconscious.
  - If you have ever had any cold sores.

Further information

- Before you are given Depo-Medrone:
  - If you have any cold sores.

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Joints - the dose for the injections into joints will depend on the size of the joint. Large joints (e.g. knee, ankle and shoulder) may require 20 mg (0.5 - 2 ml), medium sized joints (e.g. elbow or wrist) 10 - 40 mg (0.25 - 1 ml) and small joints (e.g. finger or toe joints) may need 10 mg (0.1 - 0.2 ml) of the solution.

- Reactions to the injections may be weakly over a period of several weeks, depending on how quickly you are given the injections.

- Injections made into healthy skin (e.g. to relieve pain in the face) may cause irritation, redness, swelling or pain at the injection site. Repeated injections may cause skin thinning, redness and an increased risk of infection due to skin breakdown.

- Burns and epididymitis (tissue damage) - the usual dose is between 40 mg (0.5 - 0.75 ml) in most cases. Repeated injections may cause skin thinning or redness. Repeated injections may be necessary to treat long-lasting conditions.

- Skin conditions - the usual dose is between 20 - 60 mg (0.5 - 1 ml) injected into the affected part or skin.

- For other more general conditions - 120 mg (1 - 1.5 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a large muscle.

- Elderly

  Treatment will normally be the same for you as for younger adults. However your doctor may prescribe you more regularly to check how you are getting on with this medicine.

Children

- Corticosteroids can affect growth in children so your doctor will prescribe the lowest dose that will be effective for your child.

If you are given more Depo-Medrone than you should

- you think you have been given too many injections of this medicine please speak to your doctor immediately.

Stopping/reducing the dose of your Depo-Medrone

- Your doctor will decide when it is time to stop your injections.

- You will need to come off this treatment slowly if you:

  * have been given Depo-Medrone for more than 3 weeks;
  * have been given high doses of Depo-Medrone, for example 32.8 mg (1 ml) or more of Depo-Medrone for 3 weeks or less;

4. Possible side-effects

- Corticosteroids can cause side-effects, although not everybody gets them. Your doctor will have given you this medicine for a condition which if untreated could become much more serious. In certain medical conditions like Dermatological conditions, children and adolescents may be more likely to experience the adverse effects listed in this leaflet. Your doctor will then decide whether you should continue taking your medicine.

- Redness and swelling

  * Swelling and high blood pressure, caused by increased levels of water and salt content.

- Weight gain

  * Reduced vision

  * Increased blood pressure.

  * Loss of bone density, particularly in children and adolescents who may be at risk of breaking bones more easily.

- Myalgia, arthralgia, nodules

  * Nodules are small hard lumps that may develop at the injection site.

- Joints may be red:

- 30 mg (0.1 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each week;

- 40 mg (0.25 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each 2 weeks or less;

- 60 mg (0.3 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each 1 week or less;

- 90 mg (0.5 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each 1 week or less;

- 100 mg (0.6 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each 1 week or less;

- 120 mg (0.75 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a single joint each 1 week or less.

- Children

  * Painful injections

- Allergic reactions, such as skin rash, swelling of the face or swelling and difficulty breathing. This type of side effect is rare, but can be serious.

- Acute increase in the amount of fluid in your body (oedema)

  * Swelling of the face or ankles. Swelling can also occur if you have had surgery or an injection close to the injection site.

- Injury, including burns

  * Burns and epididymitis (tissue damage) - the usual dose is between 40 mg (0.5 - 0.75 ml) in most cases. Repeated injections may cause skin thinning or redness. Repeated injections may be necessary to treat long-lasting conditions.

- Skin conditions - the usual dose is between 20 - 60 mg (0.5 - 1 ml) injected into the affected part or skin.

- For other more general conditions - 120 mg (1 - 1.5 ml) of this medicine may be injected into a large muscle.

- Elderly

  Treatment will normally be the same for you as for younger adults. However your doctor may prescribe you more regularly to check how you are getting on with this medicine.

5. How to store Depo-Medrone

- Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

- Do not store above 25°C.

- You should not use Depo-Medrone after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Further information

- What Depo-Medrone contains:

  * The active substance is in the form of injection contains 40 mg of methylprednisolone acetate and 6.7 mg of sodium dihydrogen phosphate.

- How to inject with Depo-Medrone:

  * Do not inject Depo-Medrone in the dermis of the face or of the white part of the eye (sclera).

  * Do not inject Depo-Medrone in the cornea.

  * Do not inject Depo-Medrone in the subconjunctival area.

  * Do not inject Depo-Medrone in the conjunctiva.

  * Do not inject Depo-Medrone in the subperiosteal area.

- Depo-Medrone is contained in a glass vial with a rubber cap and metal seal.

- Depo-Medrone is available in a pack with 1 vial containing 10 suspension.

- Manufacturer

  Polypharma Manufacturing Belgium NV, Rijwegenlaan 12, 2870 Puurs, Belgium. Produced from within the EU by the Product Licence Holder Polypharma Ltd and repackaged by Kent Pharmaceuticals Ltd both at Repton Road, Measham, DE12 7DT, UK.

- Depo-Medrone® is a Registered Trademark of Pharmacia & Upjohn Limited. Use in Pregnancy and Lactation

- Patients should seek advice from their doctor before starting this medicine.

- The use of Depo-Medrone during pregnancy is not recommended because there is some evidence that it may cause anaphylactic reactions in newborns or cause the newborn to have a-adrenergic overactivity.

- In women, the use of Depo-Medrone during pregnancy is not recommended because it may reduce the effectiveness of contraceptive methods.

- When used on the face or scalp, Depo-Medrone can cause symptoms which may be similar to those of acne or psoriasis.

- Use in Children

- Corticosteroids cause growth retardation in infancy, childhood and adolescence which may be irreversible. Treatment should be started at the earliest possible time.

- Use in the Elderly

- The common side effects of systemic corticosteroids may be associated with more serious consequences in old age, especially diabetes mellitus, hypertension, osteoporosis, glaucoma, cataracts, peptic ulceration.

- Cardiovascular disease is a significant complication of corticosteroids treatment which is associated with increased mortality.

- The slower rate of absorption by intramuscular administration should be taken into account when using corticosteroids in patients requiring continuous therapy.

- The use of corticosteroids in patients with a history of diabetes mellitus or cardiovascular disease may require additional precautions.

- In patients with a history of diabetes mellitus, corticosteroids may increase the risk of developing diabetes.

- Breakdown of bone due to osteoporosis.

- Dermatitis herpetiformis.

- Systemic diseases.

- The most commonly encountered side-effects are listed below in order of frequency.

- Reduced bone density, particularly in adolescent girls and young women.

- Reduced bone density, particularly in children and adolescents who may be at risk of breaking bones more easily.

- Dermatitis herpetiformis.

- Systemic diseases.

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