

Hydrocortisone is used to treat many conditions, such as joint problems, severe allergic reactions, certain skin or eye conditions, certain problems with the blood/hormones/immune system, a certain bowel problem (ulcerative colitis), swelling, and worsening multiple sclerosis.

Hydrocortisone is a glucocorticoid hormone. It decreases your body's natural defensive response and reduces symptoms such as redness and swelling.

### **How to use Hydrocortisone Oral**

Take this medication by mouth with food or milk, usually three or four times daily or as directed by your doctor. The dosage and length of treatment are based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same times each day. It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Follow the dosing schedule carefully, and take this medication exactly as prescribed.

Cholestyramine and colestipol may decrease the absorption of this medication. If you are taking either of these drugs, separate them from this medication by at least 4 hours.

If you take this medication once daily, take it in the morning before 9. If you are taking this medication every other day or on some other schedule besides a daily one, it may help to mark your calendar with a reminder.

If you have been taking this medication for a long time, do not suddenly stop taking it without consulting your doctor. Your condition may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased to reduce symptoms such as extreme tiredness, weakness, weight loss, or nausea. (See also Warning section.) Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

## **What conditions does this medication treat?**

### **Hydrocortisone Oral is used to treat the following:**

Infection caused by the Trichinae Parasite, Sarcoidosis, Diagnostic Test For Cushing's Syndrome, Chronic Malignant T-Cell Lymphoma of the Skin, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Type of Leukemia - Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, Increased Calcium in the Blood from Cancer, Thyroid Gland Inflammation, Condition caused by Excess Secretion of Male Hormones, Addison's Disease, Decreased Function of the Adrenal Gland, Inflammation of the Joints due to Gout, Disease in which Body has Immune Response Against Itself, Destruction of Red Blood Cells by Body's Own Antibodies, A Hereditary Progressive Anemia of Unknown Cause, Anemia From Too Few Young Red Blood Cells, Low Platelet Count and Bleeding of Unknown Cause, Decreased Platelets due to a Disease State or a Drug, Multiple Sclerosis, Fluid Accumulation in the Brain, Eye Disorder, Inflammation of the Heart with Rheumatic Fever, Inflammation of the Nose due to an Allergy, Vocal Cord Swelling, Asthma, Beryllium Poisoning, Inflammation of Lung from Inhaling Something Irritating, Infiltration of White Blood Cells into the Lungs, Crohn's Disease, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Nephrotic Syndrome, Atopic Dermatitis, Contact Dermatitis, Chronic Inflammatory Skin Disease Marked by Blisters, Blistering Skin Diseases, Erythema Multiforme, Skin Rash with Sloughing, Psoriasis associated with Arthritis, Psoriasis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Inflammation of Skin and Muscles All Over the Body, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Any Disease Following Trauma Involving Joint Cartilage, Joint Capsule Membrane Inflammation of a Diseased Joint, Rheumatic Disease causing Pain & Stiffness in Backbone, Inflammation of the Tendon, Inflammation of the Covering of the Tendon, Inflammation of the Lining of a Joint, Inflammation of the

Sac Surrounding the Joint - Bursitis, Muscle or Bone Disorder, Rash, Giant Hives, Allergic Reaction caused by a Drug, Body's Rejection of a Transplanted Organ, Allergic Reaction causing Serum Sickness

**Hydrocortisone Oral may also be used to treat:**

Disease causing Arthritis & Urethral & Eyelid Inflammation, Increased Calcium in the Blood from Sarcoidosis, A Tumor Formed of Blood Vessels, Breast Cancer, Cancer of the Prostate Gland, Increase in Cell Growth of Adrenal Gland Present at Birth, Joint Disease which may include Attacks of Acute Arthritis, Adrenoleukodystrophy, Myasthenia Gravis, Rheumatic Fever, Inflammation of the Covering of the Heart or Pericardium, Inflammation of the Heart, Periarteritis Nodosa, Inflammation of the Artery in the Temple Area, Vasculitis, Abnormally Low Blood Pressure, Presence of Polyps in the Nose, Bronchitis, Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Fluid in the Lungs, Canker Sore, Liver Problems, Failure of Small Intestines to Digest and Absorb Food, Eczema, Group of Skin Disorders that Resemble Blisters, Disorder of the Connective Tissue, Muscle Pain and Stiffness in Shoulder, Neck and Pelvis, Inflammation of Several Cartilages of the Body, Underdevelopment of the Pituitary Gland Since Birth, Fever due to Cancer, Shock, Life Threatening Allergic Reaction, Prevent Nausea and Vomiting from Cancer Chemotherapy

**Does this medication have side effects?**

**The following side effects are associated with Hydrocortisone Oral:**

**Common side effects:**

Infection	Severe
Conditions of Excess Stomach Acid Secretion	Less Severe
Abnormal Trouble Sleeping	Less Severe
Increased Hunger	Less Severe

Nervous	Less Severe
<b>Infrequent side effects:</b>	
Bleeding of the Stomach or Intestines	Severe
Osteoporosis	Severe
Diabetes	Severe
Cushing's Syndrome	Severe
Irregular Periods	Less Severe
<b>Rare side effects:</b>	
Extreme Sense of Well Being	Severe
Depression	Severe
Pseudotumor Cerebri	Severe
Disease of the Nerves	Severe
Muscle Disease	Severe
Increased Pressure in the Eye	Severe
Increased Pressure in Eyes	Severe
Cataracts	Severe
High Blood Pressure	Severe
Complete Stoppage of the Heart	Severe
Slow Heartbeat	Severe
Abnormal Heart Rhythm	Severe
Chronic Heart Failure	Severe
Obstruction of a Blood Vessel by a Blood Clot	Severe
Obstruction of Blood Vessel caused by a Fat Globule	Severe
Vasculitis	Severe
Blood Clot in Vein	Severe
Hemorrhage of Blood Under the Skin	Severe
Fluid in the Lungs	Severe

Ulcers of Esophagus	Severe
Ulcer from Stomach Acid	Severe
Acute Inflammation of the Pancreas	Severe
Inflammation of Skin caused by an Allergy	Severe
Redness of Skin	Severe
Skin Stretch Marks	Severe
Hives	Severe
Rupture of a Tendon	Severe
Muscle Weakness	Severe
Nerve Pain	Severe
Delirium	Severe
Hallucination	Severe
Fit	Severe
Rash	Severe
Visible Water Retention	Severe
Fast Heartbeat	Severe
Trouble Breathing	Severe
Enlarged Liver	Severe
The Presence of Sugar in the Urine	Severe
Abnormal Liver Function Tests	Severe
Broken Bone	Severe
Wound	Severe
Life Threatening Allergic Reaction	Severe
Reaction due to an Allergy	Severe
Water Retention	Severe
Confused	Severe
Mood Changes	Severe

Paranoia	Severe
Over Excitement	Severe
Mental Disturbance	Severe
False Sense of Well-Being	Severe
Disorder involving Personality Changes	Severe
Abnormal Hair Growth on Body or Face	Less Severe
Acne	Less Severe
Feeling Faint	Less Severe
Sensation of Spinning or Whirling	Less Severe
Dizzy	Less Severe
Excessive Sweating	Less Severe
Temporary Redness of Face and Neck	Less Severe
Small Reddish-Purplish Pin-Point Sized Spots on the Skin	Less Severe
Scaling of Skin	Less Severe
Weight Gain	Less Severe
Head Pain	Less Severe
Hiccups	Less Severe
Feel Like Throwing Up	Less Severe
Swelling of the Abdomen	Less Severe
Numbness and Tingling	Less Severe
Not Feeling Well	Less Severe
Abnormal Fat Distribution	Less Severe

Before taking hydrocortisone, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone); or if you have any other allergies.

This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: untreated active fungal infections.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: certain eye diseases (cataracts, glaucoma, herpes of the eye), certain heart problems (e.g., congestive heart failure), high blood pressure, severe liver disease (cirrhosis), kidney disease, underactive thyroid gland (hypothyroidism), diabetes, stomach/intestinal problems (e.g., diverticulitis, ulcer, ulcerative colitis), brittle bones (osteoporosis), certain muscle/nerve problems (e.g., myasthenia gravis), current infections (e.g., tuberculosis, positive tuberculosis test, other herpes), bleeding problems, history of blood clots, certain mental/mood conditions (e.g., psychosis, anxiety, depression), low salts in the blood (e.g., low potassium or calcium).

This drug may make you dizzy; use caution while engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages.

Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication or have taken it within the last 12 months.

Do not have immunizations, vaccinations or skin tests unless specifically directed by your doctor. Avoid contact with people who have recently received oral polio vaccine.

Avoid exposure to chickenpox or measles infection while taking this medication. If you are exposed to these infections, seek immediate medical attention.

If you have a history of ulcers or take large doses of aspirin or other arthritis medication, limit alcoholic beverages while taking this medication to decrease the risk of stomach/intestinal bleeding.

If you have diabetes, this drug may increase your blood sugar levels. Check your blood sugar levels regularly as directed by your doctor. Tell your doctor immediately if you have symptoms of high blood

sugar such as increased thirst and urination. Your anti-diabetic medication or diet may need to be adjusted.

Caution is advised when using this drug for long periods of time in children. This medication may temporarily slow down a child's growth rate. Monitor your child's height and growth rate regularly. Consult your doctor for more details.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. There have been rare reports of harm to the unborn baby. Discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your doctor. Infants born to mothers who have been using this medication for an extended period of time may have hormone problems. Tell your doctor immediately if you notice symptoms such as persistent nausea/vomiting, severe diarrhea, or weakness in your newborn. This medication passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding

See also How to Use section.

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first.

This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: live virus vaccines, mifepristone, natalizumab.

If you are currently using any of these medications, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting hydrocortisone.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: aldesleukin, large doses of aspirin and aspirin-like drugs (salicylates), nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs such as indomethacin, ibuprofen), birth control pills, estrogen hormone



replacement, blood thinners (e.g., warfarin), bupropion, drugs for diabetes, herbal products (e.g., licorice), isoniazid, drugs for myasthenia gravis (e.g., neostigmine, pyridostigmine), drugs affecting liver enzymes that remove hydrocortisone from your body (such as ephedrine, erythromycin, azole antifungals including ketoconazole, barbiturates including phenobarbital, rifamycins including rifampin, certain anti-seizure medications including phenytoin), drugs that may cause potassium loss (e.g., amphotericin B, water pills such as hydrochlorothiazide or furosemide), quinolone antibiotics (e.g., ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin).

Check all prescription and nonprescription medicine labels carefully since many contain pain relievers/fever reducers (NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, or naproxen) which may increase the risk of stomach bleeding. Low-dose aspirin, as prescribed by your doctor for specific medical reasons such as heart attack or stroke prevention (usually at dosages of 81-325 mg per day), should be continued.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

This product may interfere with certain lab tests. Make sure laboratory personnel and all your doctors know you use this drug. This document does not contain all possible interactions. Therefore, before using this product, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all the products you use. Keep a list of all your medications with you, and share the list with your doctor and pharmacist.