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, 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

www.healthoracle.org
Nervous

**Infrequent side effects:**
- Bleeding of the Stomach or Intestines - Severe
- Osteoporosis - Severe
- Diabetes - Severe
- Cushing's Syndrome - Severe
- Irregular Periods - Less Severe

**Rare side effects:**
- 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

www.healthoracle.org
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

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

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.

www.healthoracle.org
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, 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 (osteo porosis), 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.