

Prednisone (pred' ni sone)

Prednisone is used to treat the symptoms of certain types of cancer. Prednisone is in a class of medications called corticosteroids. It works to treat patients with low levels of corticosteroids by replacing steroids that are normally produced naturally by the body. Abiraterone is used in combination with prednisone for the treatment of men with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer. Because abiraterone can slow down the normal function of the adrenal glands, it is very important that prednisone be used as long as you are using abiraterone.

Before taking Prednisone:

Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, and nutritional supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your doctor if you have an eye infection now or have ever had eye infections that come and go and if you have or have ever had threadworms (a type of worm that can live inside the body); diabetes; high blood pressure; emotional problems; mental illness; myasthenia gravis (a condition in which the muscles become weak); osteoporosis (condition in which the bones become weak and fragile and can break easily); seizures; tuberculosis (TB); ulcers; or liver, kidney, intestinal, heart, or thyroid disease.

If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, or need emergency medical treatment, tell the doctor, dentist, or medical staff that you are taking or have recently stopped taking prednisone.

You should know that prednisone may decrease your ability to fight infection and may prevent you from developing symptoms if you get an infection. While this is very unlikely to happen given the low dose of prednisone you will be taking and the fact that it is replacing the corticosteroid that your adrenal glands normally make, it is possible. Stay away from people who are sick and wash your hands often while you are taking this medication. Be sure to avoid people who have chicken pox or measles. Call your doctor immediately if you think you may have been around someone who had chicken pox or measles.

Your doctor may instruct you to follow a low-salt, high potassium, or high calcium diet. Your doctor may also prescribe or recommend a calcium or potassium supplement.

Avoid eating grapefruit and drinking grapefruit juice while you are taking this medication.

How should this medicine be used?

Prednisone is a pill, taken by mouth, once daily.

Prednisone should be taken along with abiraterone acetate.

Take your dose of prednisone at same time every day. Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully and ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain any part you do not understand.

Take prednisone exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often or for a longer period of time than prescribed by your doctor.

Swallow the delayed-release tablet whole; do not chew or crush it.

Missed Dose

If you miss a dose of this medicine, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses.

Storage

Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Keep from freezing.

Keep out of the reach of children.

Do not keep outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.

If you have any unused prednisone, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available. If no community take-back disposal program is available go to www.fda.gov/drugdisposal for information on how to dispose of medication the right way.

Side Effects to watch for while taking Prednisone:

Prednisone may cause side effects. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

Headache	changes in personality	dizziness
bulging eyes	difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep	acne
inappropriate happiness	changes in personality	thin, fragile skin
extreme changes in mood	red or purple blotches or lines under the skin	heartburn
increased hair growth	slowed healing of cuts and bruises	weak muscles
extreme tiredness	irregular or absent menstrual periods	increased sweating
decreased sexual desire	changes in the way fat is spread around the body	

Some side effects can be serious. If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

vision problems	seizures	depression
loss of contact with reality	confusion	upset stomach
swelling or pain in the stomach	lightheadedness	irregular heartbeat
difficulty breathing or swallowing	rash	sudden weight gain
eye pain, redness, or tearing	hives	signs of infection
muscle twitching or tightening	dry, hacking cough	vomiting
uncontrollable shaking of the hands	sore throat, fever, chills, or cough	itching
numbness, burning, or tingling in the face, arms, legs, feet, or hands		shortness of breath
swelling of the eyes, face, lips, tongue, throat, arms, hands, feet, ankles, or lower legs		

If you experience a serious side effect, you or your doctor may send a report to the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program online (<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch>) or by phone (1-800-332-1088).

If you are unhappy with this service and would like to place a complaint with our management team please contact us at (651) 999-6800 or the Minnesota Secretary of Health and Human Services or Accreditation Commission for Health Care at (855) 937-2242

For questions, concerns or refills please call 651-999-7090.

Minnesota Urology's In- Office Dispensary