



\* Nhãn trên hộp 3 vỉ x 10 viên:

**ĐỂ XA TẮM TAY TRẒ EM.  
ĐỌC KỸ HƯỚNG DẪN SỬ DỤNG TRƯỚC KHI DÙNG.** Ngày SX (Mfg. date):  
**ĐIỀU KIỆN BẢO QUẢN:** Số H SX (Batch No.):  
Nơi khô, nhiệt độ không quá 30°C, tránh ánh sáng. HD (Exp. date):  
SBK (Reg. No.):

8 935206 012361

**DHG PHARMA** Box of 3 blisters x 10 tablets

**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolone 16 mg  
Rx FOR PRESCRIPTION ONLY

**GMP-WHO**

**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolone 16 mg

**THÀNH PHẦN:**  
Methylprednisolon ..... 16 mg  
Tá dược vừa đủ ..... 1 viên

**CHỈ ĐỊNH - CHỐNG CHỈ ĐỊNH -  
LIỀU DÙNG VÀ CÁCH DÙNG -  
CÁC THÔNG TIN KHÁC:** Xin đọc trong tờ hướng dẫn sử dụng.

Mọi thắc mắc về sản phẩm,  
xin vui lòng liên hệ  
**0710.3899000**

Sản xuất tại:  
**CÔNG TY TNHH MTV DƯỢC PHẨM DHG**  
Khu công nghiệp Tân Phú Thạnh, Châu Thành A, Hậu Giang  
ĐT: (0711) 3953555 • Fax: (0711) 3953555  
[www.dhgpharma.com.vn](http://www.dhgpharma.com.vn)

**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg

Rx THUỐC BÁN THEO ĐƠN

**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg

Hộp 3 vỉ x 10 viên nén

**GMP-WHO**  
**DHG PHARMA**

**CÔNG TY TRÁCH NHIỆM HỮU HẠN  
MỘT THÀNH VIÊN  
DƯỢC PHẨM  
DHG**  
H. CHAU THANH A - H. HAU GIANG

\* Nhãn trên hộp 10 vỉ x 10 viên:



**COMPOSITION:**  
 Methylprednisolone.....16 mg  
 Excipients...q.s.....1 tablet

**INDICATIONS:** Treatment of inflammation and immune depression in: rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, certain angitis, temporal arteritis and polyarteritis nodosa, sarcoidosis, bronchial asthma, chronic duodenal ulcer, hemolytic anemia, granulocytopenia, severe allergy including anaphylactic shock; in the treatment of cancers: acute leukemia, lymphoma, breast cancer, prostate cancer.

Methylprednisolone is also indicated in the treatment of primary nephrotic syndrome.

**CONTRAINDICATION - DOSAGE & ADMINISTRATION - OTHER INFORMATION:** Please see the enclosed leaflet.

ĐỂ XA TẮM TAY TRƯỚC EM.  
 ĐỌC KỸ HƯỚNG DẪN SỬ DỤNG TRƯỚC KHI DÙNG.  
 ĐIỀU KIỆN BẢO QUẢN: HƠI KHÖ.  
 NHIỆT ĐỘ KHÔNG QUÁ 30°C, TRÁNH ÁNH SÁNG.

S&K (Reg. No.):  
 Ngày SX (Mfg. date):  
 Số lô SX (Batch No.):  
 HD (Exp. date):

DHG PHARMA

Box of 10 blisters x 10 tablets

**Medlon 16**  
 Methylprednisolone 16 mg

Rx FOR PRESCRIPTION ONLY

**Medlon 16**  
 Methylprednisolone 16 mg

**THÀNH PHẦN:**

Methylprednisolone ..... 16 mg  
 Tá dược vừa đủ..... 1 viên

**CHỈ ĐỊNH:** Chống viêm và giảm miễn dịch trong: viêm khớp dạng thấp, lupus ban đỏ hệ thống, một số thể viêm mạch; viêm động mạch thái dương và viêm quanh động mạch nốt, bệnh sarcoid, hen phế quản, viêm loét đại tràng mạn, thiếu máu tan huyết, giảm bạch cầu hạt, và những bệnh di ứng nặng gồm cả phần vệ; trong điều trị ung thư như bệnh leukemia cấp tính, u lymphô, ung thư vú và ung thư tuyến tiền liệt. Methylprednisolone còn có chỉ định trong điều trị hội chứng thận hư nguyên phát.

**CHỐNG CHỈ ĐỊNH - LIỀU DÙNG VÀ CÁCH DÙNG -**

**CÁC THÔNG TIN KHÁC:** Xin đọc trong tờ hướng dẫn sử dụng.



Mọi thắc mắc về sản phẩm,  
 xin vui lòng liên hệ:

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Sản xuất tại:  
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 Khu công nghiệp Tân Phú Thành, Quận Tân Phú, TP. Hồ Chí Minh  
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GMP-WHO

Rx THUỐC BÁN THEO ĐƠN

**Medlon 16**  
 Methylprednisolone 16 mg

Hộp 10 vỉ x 10 viên nén

**Medlon 16**  
 Methylprednisolone 16 mg



**\* Tờ hướng dẫn sử dụng thuốc:**



# Medlon 16

Methylprednisolon 16 mg

Methylprednisolon ..... 16 mg  
Tá dược vừa đủ ..... 1 viên  
(AVCH-M10), lactose monohydrat, dicalci phosphat, aerosil, PVP K90, natri lauryl sulphat, kollidon CL-M, talc, magnesi stearat)  
**DẠNG BẢO CHẾ:** Viên nén.

**QUY CÁCH ĐÓNG GÓI:** Hộp 3 vỉ x 10 viên. Hộp 10 vỉ x 10 viên.  
**DƯỢC LỰC HỌC:**

Medlon với thành phần hoạt chất là methylprednisolon, là một glucocorticoid, có tác dụng chống viêm, chống dị ứng và ức chế miễn dịch rõ rệt. Do methyl hóa prednisolon, tác dụng corticoid trên chuyển hóa muối đã được loại trừ nên ít có nguy cơ gây giữ muối, nước và gây phù. Tác dụng chống viêm của methylprednisolon tăng 20% so với tác dụng của prednisolon, 4 mg methylprednisolon có hiệu lực bằng 20 mg hydrocortison.

**DƯỢC ĐỘNG HỌC:** Sinh khả dụng khoảng 80%, nồng độ huyết tương đạt mức tối đa 1 - 2 giờ sau khi dùng thuốc. Thời gian bán thải khoảng 3 giờ. Methylprednisolon được chuyển hóa qua gan, các chất chuyển hóa được bài tiết qua nước tiểu.

**CHỈ ĐỊNH:** Chống viêm và giảm miễn dịch trong: viêm khớp dạng thấp, lupus ban đỏ hệ thống, một số thể viêm mạch; viêm động mạch thái dương và viêm quanh động mạch nổi, bệnh sarcoid, hen phế quản, viêm loét đại tràng mạn, thiếu máu tan huyết, giảm bạch cầu hạt, và những bệnh dị ứng nặng gồm cả phản vệ; trong điều trị ung thư như bệnh leukemia cấp tính, u lymphô, ung thư vú và ung thư tuyến tiền liệt. Methylprednisolon còn có chỉ định trong điều trị hội chứng thận hư nguyên phát.

**CHỐNG CHỈ ĐỊNH:** Quá mẫn với methylprednisolon. Nhiễm khuẩn nặng, trừ sốc nhiễm khuẩn và lao màng não. Tổn thương da do virus, nấm hoặc lao. Đang dùng vaccin virus sống.

**THẬN TRỌNG:** Sử dụng thận trọng ở những người bệnh loãng xương, người mới nổi thông mạch máu, rối loạn tâm thần, loét dạ dày, loét tá tràng, đái tháo đường, tăng huyết áp, suy tim và trẻ đang lớn. Do nguy cơ có những tác dụng không mong muốn, phải sử dụng thận trọng corticosteroid toàn thân cho người cao tuổi, với liều thấp nhất và trong thời gian ngắn nhất có thể được. Suy tuyến thượng thận cấp có thể xảy ra khi ngừng thuốc đột ngột sau thời gian dài điều trị hoặc khi có stress. Khi dùng liều cao, có thể ảnh hưởng đến tác dụng của tiêm chủng vaccin.

**PHỤ NỮ CÓ THAI VÀ CHO CON BÚ:** Dùng kéo dài corticosteroid toàn thân cho người mẹ có thể dẫn đến giảm nhẹ thể trọng của trẻ sơ sinh. Sử dụng corticosteroid ở người mang thai cần cân nhắc lợi ích có thể đạt được so với những rủi ro có thể xảy ra với mẹ và con. Không chống chỉ định corticosteroid đối với người cho con bú.

**LÁI XE VÀ VẬN HÀNH MÁY MÓC:** Thận trọng khi sử dụng thuốc vì thuốc có thể gây các tác dụng không mong muốn ảnh hưởng đến khả năng lái xe và vận hành máy móc.

**TƯƠNG TÁC THUỐC:** Methylprednisolon là chất gây cảm ứng enzym cytochrom P450 và là cơ chất của enzym P450 3A4, do đó thuốc này tác động đến chuyển hóa của ciclosporin, erythromycin, phenobarbital, phenytoin, carbamazepin, ketoconazol, rifampicin. Phenytoin, phenobarbital, rifampin và các thuốc lợi tiểu giảm kali huyết có thể làm giảm hiệu lực của methylprednisolon. Methylprednisolon có thể gây tăng glucose huyết, do đó cần dùng liều insulin cao hơn.

**TÁC DỤNG KHÔNG MONG MUỐN:** Những tác dụng không mong muốn thường xảy ra nhiều nhất khi dùng methylprednisolon liều cao và dài ngày. Methylprednisolon ức chế tổng hợp prostaglandin và như vậy làm mất tác dụng của prostaglandin trên đường tiêu hóa, gồm ức chế tiết acid dạ dày và bảo vệ niêm mạc dạ dày. Thường gặp: mất ngủ, thần kinh dễ bị kích động; tăng ngon miệng, khó tiêu; rậm lông; đái tháo đường; đau khớp; đục thủy tinh thể, glôcôm; chảy máu cam.

Ít gặp: chóng mặt, co giật, loạn tâm thần, u giả ở não, nhức đầu, thay đổi tâm trạng, mê sảng, ảo giác, sáng khoái; phù, tăng huyết áp; trứng cá, teo da, thâm tím, tăng sắc tố mô; hội chứng Cushing; loét dạ dày, buồn nôn, nôn, chướng bụng, viêm loét thực quản, viêm tụy; yếu cơ, loãng xương, gãy xương; phản ứng quá mẫn. Thông báo cho bác sĩ những tác dụng không mong muốn gặp phải khi sử dụng thuốc.

**QUÁ LIỀU VÀ CÁCH XỬ TRÍ:**

Triệu chứng quá liều khi sử dụng dài ngày gồm Hội chứng Cushing, yếu cơ, loãng xương, ức chế tuyến thượng thận. Cần xem xét việc tạm dừng hoặc dùng hẳn việc dùng thuốc.

**LIỀU DÙNG VÀ CÁCH DÙNG:** Xác định liều lượng theo từng cá nhân. Liều bắt đầu là: 6 - 40 mg methylprednisolon mỗi ngày. Liều cần thiết để duy trì tác dụng điều trị mong muốn thấp hơn liều cần thiết để đạt tác dụng ban đầu, và phải xác định liều thấp nhất có thể đạt tác dụng cần có bằng cách giảm liều dần từng bước cho tới khi thấy các dấu hiệu hoặc triệu chứng bệnh tăng lên.

Khi cần dùng những liều lớn trong thời gian dài, áp dụng liệu pháp dùng thuốc cách ngày sau khi đã kiểm soát được tiến trình của bệnh, sẽ ít các tác dụng không mong muốn hơn vì có thời gian phục hồi giữa mỗi liều.

Trong liệu pháp cách ngày, dùng một liều duy nhất methylprednisolon cứ 2 ngày một lần, vào buổi sáng theo nhịp thời gian tiết tự nhiên glucocorticoid.

Điều trị cơn hen cấp tính: 32 - 48 mg/ ngày trong 5 ngày, sau đó có thể điều trị bổ sung với liều thấp hơn trong một tuần. Khi khỏi cơn cấp tính, thuốc được giảm dần nhanh.

Đợt cấp tính viêm khớp dạng thấp: 16 - 32 mg/ ngày, sau đó giảm dần nhanh.

Đợt cấp tính viêm loét đại tràng mạn tính: 8 - 24 mg/ ngày.

Hội chứng thận hư nguyên phát: bắt đầu 0,8 - 1,6 mg/ kg/ ngày trong 6 tuần, sau đó giảm dần liều trong 6 - 8 tuần.

Thiếu máu tan huyết do miễn dịch: 64 mg/ ngày, ít nhất 6 - 8 tuần. Hoặc theo chỉ dẫn của Thầy thuốc.

**Đọc kỹ hướng dẫn sử dụng trước khi dùng.**

**Nếu cần thêm thông tin, xin hỏi ý kiến của bác sĩ.**

**Thuốc này chỉ dùng theo đơn của bác sĩ.**

**Hạn dùng:** 24 tháng kể từ ngày sản xuất.

**Điều kiện bảo quản:**

Nơi khô, nhiệt độ không quá 30°C, tránh ánh sáng.

**Tiêu chuẩn:** TCCS.

Sản xuất tại:  
**CÔNG TY TNHH MTV DƯỢC PHẨM DHG**  
Khu công nghiệp Tân Phú Thạnh, Châu Thành A, Hậu Giang  
ĐT: (0711) 3953555 • Fax: (0711) 3953555

Mọi thắc mắc về sản phẩm,  
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**0710.3899000**

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[www.dhgpharma.com.vn](http://www.dhgpharma.com.vn)



**TU. CỤC TRƯỞNG  
P. TRƯỞNG PHÒNG  
Đỗ Minh Hùng**

Cơ sở sản xuất:  
**CÔNG TY CỔ PHẦN DƯỢC HẬU GIANG -**  
Chi nhánh nhà máy dược phẩm DHG tại Hậu Giang



**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg



**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg



**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg



**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg



**Medlon 16**  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg

DHG PHARMA

SỐ LÔ SX:      HD:

ĐỂ XA TẮM TAY TRẸ EM  
ĐỌC KỸ HƯỚNG DẪN SỬ DỤNG  
TRƯỚC KHI DÙNG.  
BẢO QUẢN: NƠI KHÔ,  
NHIỆT ĐỘ KHÔNG QUÁ 30°C,  
TRÁNH ÁNH SÁNG.

SDK (Reg. No.): VD-24620-16



Ngày SX (Mfg. date):

Số lô SX (Batch No.):

HD (Exp. date):

DHG PHARMA

Box of 3 blisters x 10 tablets

16



Methylprednisolone 16 mg  
**Medlon**  
Rx FOR PRESCRIPTION ONLY

Medlon 16  
Methylprednisolone 16 mg

**THÀNH PHẦN:**

Methylprednisolon ..... 16 mg  
Tá dược vừa đủ..... 1 viên

**CHỈ ĐỊNH - CÁCH DÙNG -  
CHỐNG CHỈ ĐỊNH VÀ**

**CÁC THÔNG TIN KHÁC:** Xem trong  
tờ hướng dẫn sử dụng thuốc kèm theo.  
**TIÊU CHUẨN:** TCCS.



Mọi thắc mắc về sản phẩm,  
xin vui lòng liên hệ  
**0292.3899000**

Cơ sở sản xuất:

**CÔNG TY CỔ PHẦN DƯỢC HẬU GIANG -**

Chi nhánh nhà máy dược phẩm DHG tại Hậu Giang

Lô B2 - B3, Khu công nghiệp Tân Phú Thành - giai đoạn 1,

xã Tân Phú Thành, huyện Châu Thành A, tỉnh Hậu Giang

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03

Medlon 16  
Methylprednisolon 16 mg

Rx THUỐC KÊ ĐƠN

**Medlon**

Methylprednisolon 16 mg

Hộp 3 vỉ x 10 viên nén



16

DHG PHARMA



# Rx Medlon 16

## Methylprednisolone 16 mg

Keep out of reach of children.

Read the directions carefully before use.

For prescription only.

**QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

**Active ingredient**

Methylprednisolone ... 16 mg

**Excipients:** Microcrystalline cellulose M101, lactose monohydrate, dicalcium phosphate, povidone K30, crospovidone H, sodium laurilsulfate, talc, colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate.

**PHARMACEUTICAL FORM:** Tablet.

**Product description**

A white to off-white, oval tablet with a plain on one side, a cross symbol on the other side, undamaged edges.

**THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS**

Methylprednisolone is indicated for conditions requiring glucocorticoid activity such as:

- Endocrine disorders: Primary and secondary adrenal insufficiency, congenital adrenal hyperplasia.
- Rheumatic disorders: Rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile chronic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis.
- Collagen diseases/arteritis: Systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic dermatomyositis (polymyositis), rheumatic fever with severe carditis, giant cell arteritis/polymyalgia rheumatica.
- Dermatological diseases: Pemphigus vulgaris.
- Allergic states: Severe seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis, drug hypersensitivity reactions, serum sickness, allergic contact dermatitis, bronchial asthma.
- Ophthalmic diseases: Anterior uveitis (iritis, iridocyclitis), posterior uveitis, optic neuritis.
- Respiratory diseases: Pulmonary sarcoid, fulminating or disseminated tuberculosis (with appropriate anti-tuberculous chemotherapy), aspiration of gastric contents.
- Haematological disorders: Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura in adults, haemolytic anaemia (autoimmune).
- Neoplastic diseases: Leukaemia (acute and lymphatic), malignant lymphoma.
- Gastro-intestinal diseases: Ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease.
- Miscellaneous: Tuberculous meningitis (with appropriate anti-tuberculous chemotherapy), transplantation.

**POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

The dosage recommendations shown below are suggested initial daily doses and are intended as guides. The average total daily dose recommended may be given either as a single dose or in divided doses (excepting in alternate day therapy when the minimum effective daily dose is doubled and given every other day at 8.00 am).

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the minimum period (see section *Special warnings and precautions for use*). The initial suppressive dose level may vary depending on the condition being treated. This is continued until a satisfactory clinical response is obtained, a period usually of three to seven days in the case of rheumatic diseases (except for acute rheumatic carditis), allergic conditions affecting the skin or respiratory tract and ophthalmic diseases. If a satisfactory response is not obtained in seven days, re-evaluation of the case to confirm the original diagnosis should be made. As soon as a satisfactory clinical response is obtained, the daily dose should be reduced gradually, either to termination of treatment in the case of acute conditions (e.g. seasonal asthma, exfoliative dermatitis, acute ocular inflammations) or to the minimal effective maintenance dose level in the case of chronic conditions (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, bronchial asthma, atopic dermatitis). In chronic conditions, and in rheumatoid arthritis especially, it is important that the reduction in dosage from initial to maintenance dose levels be accomplished as clinically appropriate. Decrements of not more than 2 mg at intervals of 7 - 10 days are suggested. In rheumatoid arthritis, maintenance steroid therapy should be at the lowest possible level.

In alternate-day therapy, the minimum daily corticoid requirement is doubled and administered as a single dose every other day at 8.00 am. Dosage requirements depend on the condition being treated and response of the patient.

**Elderly patients:** Treatment of elderly patients, particularly if long-term, should be planned bearing in mind the more serious consequences of the common side-effects of corticosteroids in old age, particularly osteoporosis, diabetes, hypertension, susceptibility to infection and thinning of skin (see section *Special warnings and precautions for use*).

**Paediatric population:** In general, dosage for children should be based upon clinical response and is at the discretion of the physician. Treatment should be limited to the minimum dosage for the shortest period of time. If possible, treatment should be administered as a single dose on alternate days (see section *Special warnings and precautions for use*).

**Dosage recommendations**

Rheumatoid arthritis

- Severe: 12 - 16 mg

- Moderately severe: 8 - 12 mg

- Moderate: 4 - 8 mg

- Children: 4 - 8 mg

Systemic dermatomyositis: 48 mg

Systemic lupus erythematosus: 20 - 100 mg

Acute rheumatic fever: 48 mg until ESR normal for one week.

Allergic diseases: 12 - 40 mg

Bronchial asthma: up to 64 mg single dose/alternate day up to 100 mg maximum.

Ophthalmic diseases: 12 - 40 mg

Haematological disorders and leukaemias: 16 - 100 mg

Malignant lymphoma: 16 - 100 mg

Ulcerative colitis: 16 - 60 mg

Crohn's disease: up to 48 mg per day in acute episodes

Organ transplantation: up to 3.6 mg/kg/day

Pulmonary sarcoid: 32 - 48 mg on alternate days

Giant cell arteritis/polymyalgia rheumatic: 64 mg

Pemphigus vulgaris: 80 - 360 mg

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Methylprednisolone tablets are contraindicated:

- in patients who have systemic fungal infections
- in patients who have systemic infections unless specific anti-infective therapy is employed
- in patients who have hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in the product.

Administration of live or live, attenuated vaccines is contraindicated in patients receiving immunosuppressive doses of corticosteroids.

**SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**

**Immunosuppressant effects/increased susceptibility to infections**

Corticosteroids may increase susceptibility to infection, may mask some signs of infection, and new infections may appear during their use. Suppression of the inflammatory response and immune function increases the susceptibility to fungal, viral and bacterial infections and their severity. The clinical presentation may often be atypical and may reach an advanced stage before being recognised.

Persons who are on drugs which suppress the immune system are more susceptible to infections than healthy individuals. Chicken pox and measles, for example, can have a more serious or even fatal course in non-immune children or adults on corticosteroids.

Chickenpox is of serious concern since this normally minor illness may be fatal in immunosuppressed patients. Patients (or parents of children) without a definite history of chickenpox should be advised to avoid close personal contact with chickenpox or herpes zoster and if exposed they should seek urgent medical attention. Passive immunization with varicella/zoster immunoglobulin (VZIG) is needed by exposed non-immune patients who are receiving systemic corticosteroids or who have used them within the previous 3 months; this should be given within 10 days of exposure to chickenpox. If a diagnosis of chickenpox is confirmed, the illness warrants specialist care and urgent treatment. Corticosteroids should not be stopped and the dose may need to be increased.

Exposure to measles should be avoided. Medical advice must be sought immediately if exposure occurs. Prophylaxis with normal intramuscular immunoglobulin may be needed.

Similarly corticosteroids should be used with great care in patients with known or suspected parasitic infections such as Strongyloides (threadworm) infestation, which may lead to Strongyloides hyperinfection and dissemination with widespread larval migration, often accompanied by severe enterocolitis and potentially fatal gram-negative septicemia.

Administration of live or live, attenuated vaccines is contraindicated in patients receiving immunosuppressive doses of corticosteroids. The antibody response to other vaccines may be diminished.

The use of corticosteroids in active tuberculosis should be restricted to those cases of fulminating or disseminated tuberculosis in which the corticosteroid is used for the management of the disease in conjunction with an appropriate antituberculous regimen. If corticosteroids are indicated in patients with latent tuberculosis or tuberculin reactivity, close observation is necessary as reactivation of the disease may occur. During prolonged corticosteroid therapy, these patients should receive chemoprophylaxis.

Kaposi's sarcoma has been reported to occur in patients receiving corticosteroid therapy. Discontinuation of corticosteroids may result in clinical remission.

The role of corticosteroids in septic shock has been controversial, with early studies reporting both beneficial and detrimental effects. More recently, supplemental corticosteroids have been suggested to be beneficial in patients with established septic shock who exhibit adrenal insufficiency. However, their routine use in septic shock is not recommended. A systematic review of short-course high-dose corticosteroids did not support their use. However, meta-analyses, and a review have suggested that longer courses (5- 11 days) of low-dose corticosteroids might reduce mortality.

**Immune system**

Because rare instances of skin reactions and anaphylacti/anaphylactoid reactions have occurred in patients receiving corticosteroid therapy, appropriate precautionary measures should be taken prior to administration, especially when the patient has a history of allergy to any drug.

**Endocrine effects**

In patients on corticosteroid therapy subjected to unusual stress, increased dosage of rapidly acting corticosteroids before, during, and after the stressful situation is indicated.

Adrenal cortical atrophy develops during prolonged therapy and may persist for months after stopping treatment. In patients who have received more than physiological doses of systemic corticosteroids (approximately 6 mg methylprednisolone) for greater than 3 weeks, withdrawal should not be abrupt. How dose reduction should be carried out depends largely on whether the disease is likely to relapse as the dose of systemic corticosteroids is reduced. Clinical assessment of disease activity may be needed during withdrawal. If the disease is unlikely to relapse on withdrawal of systemic corticosteroids, but there is uncertainty about HPA suppression, the dose of systemic corticosteroid may be reduced rapidly to physiological doses. Once a daily dose of 6 mg methylprednisolone is reached, dose reduction should be slower to allow the HPA-axis to recover.

Abrupt withdrawal of systemic corticosteroid treatment, which has continued up to 3 weeks is appropriate if it is considered that the disease is unlikely to relapse. Abrupt withdrawal of doses up to 32 mg daily of methylprednisolone for 3 weeks is unlikely to lead to clinically relevant HPA-axis suppression, in the majority of patients. In the following patient groups, gradual withdrawal of systemic corticosteroid therapy should be considered even after courses

lasting 3 weeks or less:

- Patients who have had repeated courses of systemic corticosteroids, particularly if taken for greater than 3 weeks.

- When a short course has been prescribed within one year of cessation of long-term therapy (months or years).

- Patients who may have reasons for adrenocortical insufficiency other than exogenous corticosteroid therapy. In addition, acute adrenal insufficiency leading to a fatal outcome may occur if glucocorticoids are withdrawn abruptly.

- Patients receiving doses of systemic corticosteroid greater than 32 mg daily of methylprednisolone.

- Patients repeatedly taking doses in the evening.

A steroid "withdrawal syndrome" seemingly unrelated to adrenocortical insufficiency, may also occur following abrupt discontinuance of glucocorticoids. This syndrome includes symptoms such as: anorexia, nausea, vomiting, lethargy, headache, fever, joint pain, desquamation, myalgia, weight loss, and/or hypotension. These effects are thought to be due to the sudden change in glucocorticoid concentration rather than to low corticosteroid levels.

Glucocorticoids can produce or aggravate Cushing's syndrome, therefore glucocorticoids should be avoided in patients with Cushing's disease.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with hypothyroidism and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

**Metabolism and nutrition disorders**

Corticosteroids, including methylprednisolone, can increase blood glucose, worsen pre-existing diabetes, and predispose those on long-term corticosteroid therapy to diabetes mellitus.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with diabetes mellitus (or a family history of diabetes) and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

**Psychiatric effects**

Patients and/or carers should be warned that potentially severe psychiatric adverse reactions may occur with systemic steroids (see section *Undesirable effects*). Symptoms typically emerge within a few days or weeks of starting treatment. Risks may be higher with high doses/systemic exposure (see also section *Interactions*), although dose levels do not allow prediction of the onset, type, severity or duration of reactions. Most reactions recover after either dose reduction or withdrawal, although specific treatment may be necessary. Patients/carers should be encouraged to seek medical advice if worrying psychological symptoms develop, especially if depressed mood or suicidal ideation is suspected. Patients/carers should be alert to possible psychiatric disturbances that may occur either during or immediately after dose tapering/withdrawal of systemic steroids, although such reactions have been reported infrequently.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with existing or previous history of severe affective disorders in themselves or in their first degree relatives. These would include depressive or manic-depressive illness and previous steroid psychosis.

**Nervous system effects**

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with seizure disorders and myasthenia gravis (see myopathy statement in *Musculoskeletal effects* section) and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

There have been reports of epidural lipomatosis in patients taking corticosteroids, typically with long-term use at high doses.

**Ocular effects**

Visual disturbance may be reported with systemic and topical corticosteroid use. If a patient presents with symptoms such as blurred vision or other visual disturbances, the patient should be considered for referral to an ophthalmologist for evaluation of possible causes which may include cataract, glaucoma or rare diseases such as central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) which have been reported after use of systemic and topical corticosteroids. Central serous chorioretinopathy, may lead to retinal detachment.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with glaucoma (or a family history of glaucoma) and ocular herpes simplex as there is a fear of corneal perforation, and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

Prolonged use of corticosteroids may produce posterior subcapsular cataracts and nuclear cataracts (particularly in children), exophthalmos or increased intraocular pressure, which may result in glaucoma with possible damage to the optic nerves.

Secondary fungal and viral infections of the eye may also be enhanced in patients receiving glucocorticoids.

**Cardiac effects**

Adverse effects of glucocorticoids on the cardiovascular system, such as dyslipidemia and hypertension, may predispose treated patients with existing cardiovascular risk factors to additional cardiovascular effects, if high doses and prolonged courses are used. Accordingly, corticosteroids should be employed judiciously in such patients and attention should be paid to risk modification and additional cardiac monitoring if needed. Low dose and alternate day therapy may reduce the incidence of complications in corticosteroid therapy.

Systemic corticosteroids should be used with caution, and only if strictly necessary, in cases of congestive heart failure.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with recent myocardial infarction (myocardial rupture has been reported) and frequent patient monitoring is necessary. Care should be taken for patients receiving cardioactive drugs such as digoxin because of steroid induced electrolyte disturbance/potassium loss (see section *Undesirable effects*).

**Vascular effects**

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with the following conditions and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

Hypertension.

Predisposition to thrombophlebitis.

Thrombosis including venous thromboembolism has been reported to occur with corticosteroids. As a result corticosteroids should be used with caution in patients who have or may be predisposed to thromboembolic disorders.

**Gastrointestinal effects**

High doses of corticosteroids may produce acute pancreatitis.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with the following conditions and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

Peptic ulceration.

Fresh intestinal anastomoses.

Abscess or other pyogenic infections.

Ulcerative colitis.

Diverticulitis.

Glucocorticoid therapy may mask peritonitis or other signs or symptoms associated with gastrointestinal disorders such as perforation, obstruction or pancreatitis. In combination with NSAIDs, the risk of developing gastrointestinal ulcers is increased.

**Hepatobiliary effects**

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with liver failure or cirrhosis and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

Rarely hepatobiliary disorders were reported, in the majority of these cases, they were reversible after withdrawal of therapy. Therefore appropriate monitoring is required.

**Musculoskeletal effects**

An acute myopathy has been reported with the use of high doses of corticosteroids, most often occurring in patients with disorders of neuromuscular transmission (e.g. myasthenia gravis), or in patients receiving concomitant therapy with anticholinergics, such as neuromuscular blocking drugs (e.g. pancuronium). This acute myopathy is generalized, may involve ocular and respiratory muscles, and may result in quadriplegia. Elevations of creatine kinase may occur. Clinical improvement or recovery after stopping corticosteroids may require weeks to years.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with osteoporosis (post-menopausal females are particularly at risk) and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

**Renal and urinary**

Caution is required in patients with systemic sclerosis because an increased incidence of scleroderma renal crisis has been observed with corticosteroids, including methylprednisolone. Blood pressure and renal function (s-creatinine) should therefore be routinely checked. When renal crisis is suspected, blood pressure should be carefully controlled.

Particular care is required when considering the use of systemic corticosteroids in patients with renal insufficiency and frequent patient monitoring is necessary.

**Injury, poisoning and procedural complications**

Systemic corticosteroids are not indicated for, and therefore should not be used to treat, traumatic brain injury, a multicenter study revealed an increased mortality at 2 weeks and 6 months after injury in patients administered methylprednisolone sodium succinate compared to placebo. A causal association with methylprednisolone sodium succinate treatment has not been established.

**Other**

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the minimum period, and by administering the daily requirement as a single morning dose or whenever possible as a single morning dose on alternative days. Frequent patient review is required to appropriately titrate the dose against disease activity.

Patients should carry 'Steroid treatment' cards which give clear guidance on the precautions to be taken to minimise risk and which provide details of prescriber, drug, dosage and the duration of treatment.

Co-treatment with CYP3A inhibitors, including cobicistat-containing products, is expected to increase the risk of systemic side-effects. The combination should be avoided unless the benefit outweighs the increased risk of systemic corticosteroid side-effects, in which case patients should be monitored for systemic corticosteroid side-effects (see section *Interactions*).

Aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents should be used cautiously in conjunction with corticosteroids.

Pheochromocytoma crisis, which can be fatal, has been reported after administration of systemic corticosteroids. Corticosteroids should only be administered to patients with suspected or identified pheochromocytoma after an appropriate risk/benefit evaluation.

**Paediatric populatn**

Corticosteroids cause growth retardation in infancy, childhood and adolescence. Growth and development of infants and children on prolonged corticosteroid therapy should be carefully observed. Treatment should be limited to the minimum dosage for the shortest possible time. In order to minimise suppression of the hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis and growth retardation, treatment should be administered where possible as a single dose on alternate days (see section *Posology and Method of Administration*).

Infants and children on prolonged corticosteroid therapy are at special risk from raised intracranial pressure.

High doses of corticosteroids may produce pancreatitis in children.

**Use in the elderly**

The common adverse effects of systemic corticosteroids may be associated with more serious consequences in old age, especially osteoporosis, hypertension, hypokalaemia, diabetes, susceptibility to infection and thinning of the skin. Close clinical supervision is required to avoid life-threatening reactions.

**Excipients**

Lactose (monohydrate): Patients with problems of galactose intolerance, the lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially "sodium-free".

**USE IN PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**

**Fertility:** Corticosteroids have been shown to impair fertility in animal studies.

**Pregnancy**

The ability of corticosteroids to cross the placenta varies between individual drugs, however, methylprednisolone does cross the placenta. In humans, the risk of low birth weight appears to be dose related and may be minimized by administering lower corticosteroid doses.

Administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals can cause abnormalities of fetal development including cleft palate, intra-uterine growth retardation and effects on brain growth and development. There is no evidence that corticosteroids result in an increased incidence of congenital abnormalities, such as cleft palate in man, however, when administered for long periods or repeatedly during pregnancy, corticosteroids may increase the risk of intra-uterine growth retardation. Infants born to mothers, who have received substantial doses of corticosteroids during pregnancy must be carefully observed and

evaluated for signs of adrenal insufficiency. Hypoadrenalism may, in theory, occur in the neonate following prenatal exposure to corticosteroids but usually resolves spontaneously following birth and is rarely clinically important.

Since adequate human reproductive studies have not been done with methylprednisolone, this medicinal product, as with all drugs, should be used during pregnancy only after a careful assessment of the benefit-risk ratio to the mother, embryo, foetus or child. When corticosteroids are essential, however, patients with normal pregnancies may be treated as though they were in the non-gravid state.

Cataracts have been observed in infants born to mothers undergoing long-term treatment with corticosteroids during pregnancy.

**Breast-feeding**

Corticosteroids are excreted in small amounts in breast milk, however, doses of up to 40 mg daily of methylprednisolone are unlikely to cause systemic effects in the infant. Infants of mothers taking higher doses than this may have a degree of adrenal suppression. This medicinal product should be used during breast feeding only after a careful assessment of the benefit-risk ratio to the mother and infant.

**EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES**

The effect of corticosteroids on the ability to drive or use machinery has not been systematically evaluated. Undesirable effects, such as dizziness, vertigo, visual disturbances and fatigue are possible after treatment with corticosteroids. If affected, patients should not drive or operate machinery.

**INTERACTIONS**

Methylprednisolone is a cytochrome P450 enzyme (CYP) substrate and is mainly metabolized by the CYP3A4 enzyme. CYP3A4 is the dominant enzyme of the most abundant CYP subfamily in the liver of adult humans. It catalyzes 6β-hydroxylation of steroids, the essential Phase I metabolic step for both endogenous and synthetic corticosteroids. Many other compounds are also substrates of CYP3A4, some of which (as well as other drugs) have been shown to alter glucocorticoid metabolism by induction (upregulation) or inhibition of the CYP3A4 enzyme.

Drug class or type Drug or Substance	Interaction	Effect
Antibiotic, Antitubercular - RIFAMPIN - RIFABUTIN	CYP3A4 Inducer	CYP3A4 inducers - Drugs that induce CYP3A4 activity generally increase hepatic clearance, resulting in decreased plasma concentration of medications that are substrates for CYP3A4. Co-administration may require an increase in methylprednisolone dosage to achieve the desired result.
Anticonvulsants - PHENYTOIN - PHENYTOIN - PHENYTOIN - PRIMIDONE		
Anticonvulsant - CARBAMAZEPINE	CYP3A4 Inducer (and Substrate)	CYP3A4 inducers - see above CYP3A4 substrates - In the presence of another CYP3A4 substrate, the hepatic clearance of methylprednisolone may be affected, with corresponding dosage adjustments required. It is possible that adverse events associated with the use of either drug alone may be more likely to occur with co-administration.
Macrolide Antibacterial - TROLEANDOMYCIN	CYP3A4 Inhibitor	CYP3A4 inhibitors - Drugs that inhibit CYP3A4 activity generally decrease hepatic clearance and increase the plasma concentration of CYP3A4 substrate medications, such as methylprednisolone. In the presence of a CYP3A4 inhibitor, the dose of methylprednisolone may need to be titrated to avoid steroid toxicity.
- Grapefruit juice		
Calcium Antagonist - MIBEFRADIL		
Histamine H <sub>2</sub> receptor Antagonist - CIMETIDINE		
Antibacterial - ISONIAZID		In addition, there is a potential effect of methylprednisolone to increase the acetylation rate and clearance of isoniazid.
Antiemetic - APREPITANT - FOSAPREPITANT	CYP3A4 Inhibitor (and Substrate)	CYP3A4 inhibitors - see box above CYP3A4 substrates - In the presence of another CYP3A4 substrate, the hepatic clearance of methylprednisolone may be affected, with corresponding dosage adjustments required. It is possible that adverse events associated with the use of either drug alone may be more likely to occur with co-administration.
Antifungal - ITRACONAZOLE - KETOCONAZOLE		
Calcium Channel Blocker - DILTIAZEM		(1) Mutual inhibition of metabolism occurs with concurrent use of clospiroin and methylprednisolone, which may increase the plasma concentrations of either or both drugs. Therefore, it is possible that adverse events associated with the use of either drug alone may be more likely to occur upon co-administration.
Contraceptives (oral) - ETHINYLESTRADIOL/ NORETHINDRONE		(2) Protease inhibitors, such as indinavir and ritonavir, may increase plasma concentrations of corticosteroids.
Immunosuppressant - CICLOSPORIN (1)		(3) Corticosteroids may induce the metabolism of HIV-protease inhibitors resulting in reduced plasma concentrations.
Macrolide Antibacterial - CLARITHROMYCIN - ERYTHROMYCIN		
Antivirals - HIV-PROTEASE INHIBITORS (2) (3)		
Pharmacokinetic enhancers -COBICISTAT		
Immunosuppressant - CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE - TACROLIMUS	CYP3A4 Substrate	CYP3A4 substrates - In the presence of another CYP3A4 substrate, the hepatic clearance of methylprednisolone may be affected, with corresponding dosage adjustments required. It is possible that adverse events associated with the use of either drug alone may be more likely to occur with co-administration.
NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) (4) - High-dose ASPIRIN (5) (acetylsalicylic acid)	Non-CYP3A4-mediated effects	(4) There may be increased incidence of gastrointestinal bleeding and ulceration when methylprednisolone are given with NSAIDs. (5) Methylprednisolone may increase the clearance of high-dose aspirin, which can lead to decreased salicylate serum levels. Discontinuation of methylprednisolone treatment can lead to raised salicylate serum levels, which could lead to an increased risk of salicylate toxicity.
Anticholinergics (6) - NEUROMUSCULAR BLOCKERS (7)		
Anticholinesterases		Steroids may reduce the effects of anticholinesterases in myasthenia gravis.
Anti-diabetics		Because corticosteroids may increase blood glucose concentrations, dosage adjustments of anti-diabetic agents may be required.
Anticoagulants (oral)		The efficacy of coumarin anticoagulants may be enhanced by concurrent corticosteroid therapy and close monitoring of the INR or prothrombin time is required to avoid spontaneous bleeding.
Potassium-depleting agents		When corticosteroids are administered concomitantly with potassium-depleting agents (i.e. diuretics), patients should be observed closely for development of hypokalaemia. There is also an increased risk of hypokalaemia with concurrent use of corticosteroids with amphotericin B, xanthines, or beta2 agonists.
Aromatase inhibitors -AMINOGLUTETHIMIDE		Aminoglutethimide-induced adrenal suppression may exacerbate endocrine changes caused by prolonged glucocorticoid treatment.

**UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS**

The undesirable effects are listed below by frequency according to the following convention: Very common (≥ 1/10); Common (≥ 1/100, <1/10);

Uncommon (≥ 1/1000, < 1/100); Rare (≥ 1/10000, < 1/10000); Very rare (&lt