



# NYUCancerInstitute

## P A T I E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

The side effects listed below are those that occur most frequently. Other side effects may occur; please contact your doctor or oncology nurse to report any medical problems.

Dose \_\_\_\_\_

### PREDNISONE

Prednisone is a synthetic adrenocortical steroid, which is similar to a hormone produced by your adrenal glands.

#### **Possible Side Effects**

- a. Increase in white blood cell count, blood sugar and blood pressure.
- b. Increased appetite and fluid retention resulting in possible weight gain and leg swelling.
- c. Increased risk of infection.
- d. Irritation of the stomach with possible development of a bleeding ulcer.
- e. Loss of muscle mass and strength in the upper thighs.
- f. Sleep disturbances, hyperactivity, increased irritability, changes in mood, and psychosis.
- g. With prolonged use: increased facial hair, fracture of weight bearing bones, glaucoma, and increased tendency to get blood clots.

#### **Instructions**

- a. You will be followed closely by your doctor while you are taking this medication. It is important for you to discuss any symptoms that occur with your doctor or nurse.
- b. Always take this medication **WITH FOOD**. Call your doctor immediately if you develop black "tarry" stools.

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PREDNISONE

- c. Do not drink alcoholic beverages while on this medication. Take this medication exactly as prescribed. If you accidentally forget a dose, call your doctor for instructions.
  
- d. Do not suddenly stop this medication unless directed by your doctor.
  
- e. Alert all health care providers that you are taking, or have recently taken, this medication especially if you are being treated for a severe infection or are having surgery.
  
- f. If you have any questions, please call a nurse or pharmacist at the Comprehensive Cancer Center. **(212) 652-1932**