

Prednisone (Deltasone®, Orasone®, Prednicen-M®, Liquid Pred®)

Drug Name: Deltasone®, Orasone®, Prednicen-M®, Liquid Pred®

Generic Name: prednisone

Purpose: Prednisone is a steroid that is used to reduce inflammation (swelling) in various parts of the body. It may also be used to treat nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy, and to increase appetite in cancer patients with severe appetite problems. Prednisone is similar to a hormone that is produced in the adrenal glands (glands located at the top of the kidneys).

Form: Pill

How to take:

- Take prednisone as directed by your doctor. Your doctor will determine your dose and schedule.
- Always take Prednisone either WITH FOOD or MILK.
- DO NOT drink alcohol while taking prednisone.
- Take prednisone exactly how it is prescribed. If you miss a dose, call your doctor for instructions.
- DO NOT suddenly stop taking prednisone unless you are told to by your doctor.
- Tell all health care providers that you are taking, or have recently taken prednisone. This is *critical* if you are being treated for a severe infection or are having surgery.
 - Prednisone will suppress (slow down) your immune system. This means it will be very difficult for your body to fight infections.
 - Prednisone will make it harder for you to heal from surgery. It will take longer than usual for your body to heal.
- You will be followed by your doctor very closely while you are taking prednisone. Tell your doctor about any symptoms or side effects you experience.



Possible Side Effects:

- Increase in white blood cell count, blood sugar, and blood pressure. Your doctor will check your levels on a regular basis.
- Increased appetite
- Fluid retention (feeling bloated)
- Swelling of your hands and feet
- Weight gain
- Increased risk of infection
- Stomach irritation
- Bleeding Ulcer. You would have abdominal (belly) pain, vomiting, and blood in your bowel movements.
- Trouble sleeping
- Hyperactivity (more active than usual, cannot remain calm or still)
- Increased irritability, mood changes, psychosis (disoriented, hallucinating, losing touch with reality)
- Black, tar-like bowel movements (call doctor immediately)

Taking prednisone for a long period of time may cause:

- Increased facial hair
- Fracture of weight bearing bones, the bones that support your weight (your legs and hips)
- Glaucoma (an eye disease that can cause vision loss and blindness)
- Higher risk of getting blood clots
- Swelling of your face

Important: Call your doctor immediately if you have any of the symptoms described above. These side effects are treatable and are not a reason for alarm.