

Corticosteroid pills or liquids to help with breathing

This handout lists corticosteroid drugs, also called steroids, and their side effects.

Do you need corticosteroid pills or liquids

- If your breathing gets worse, you may need to take oral steroids
- Your doctor may want you to have pills at home in case you need them
 - Call your doctor first before you start to take them
- Your doctor will tell you how to take this drug
 - Most people take it for just 1 to 2 weeks
 - Then once your breathing is better, take it less often, until taking no pills at all

Circle the drug you take

- Prednisone (Deltasone or Orasone)
- Prednisolone (Prelone syrup, Pediapred liquid, or Orapred liquid)
- Hydrocortisone (Cortef)
- Dexamethasone (Decadron)
- Methylprednisolone (Medrol)

Side effects

- Cannot sleep well
- Feel nervous or jittery
- Heartburn
- Dark stools or blood in stools (may mean you have an ulcer)
- Thin or weak bones
- Acne
- Weakness
- Weight gain
- Talk with your doctor right away if you stop taking these pills

The content in this letter is intended as general information and may not apply to you or your condition. Talk to your doctor about how to best use this information and how to take care of your medical condition. This information is not intended to provide or replace professional medical advice or services.
