

DEPO-MEDROL®

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I being given DEPO-MEDROL?

DEPO-MEDROL contains the active ingredient Methylprednisolone. DEPO-MEDROL is used to treat disorders of many organ systems such as skin, lung, eye, gastrointestinal tract, nervous system, joints and blood.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I being given DEPO-MEDROL?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before receiving DEPO-MEDROL?

Do not receive DEPO-MEDROL if you have ever had an allergic reaction to DEPO-MEDROL or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI, or if you have a severe fungal infection or if you have been given a live vaccine.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before receiving DEPO-MEDROL?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with DEPO-MEDROL and affect how it works. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy with or without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How is DEPO-MEDROL given?

This medicine will be administered under medical supervision. It may be given into a muscle, or into a joint, or into a lesion. Due to the risk of serious side effects, it must not be injected into the spinal cord or into a vein.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How is DEPO-MEDROL given?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while receiving DEPO-MEDROL?

Things you should do	• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are receiving DEPO-MEDROL. • Tell your doctor that you are being treated with DEPO-MEDROL: ○ before having any skin tests ○ before having any kind of surgery ○ if you get a serious injury or infection.
Driving or using machines	• DEPO-MEDROL may cause tiredness, dizziness or slow reflexes in some people. • Do not dive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you feel tired, or if you feel that DEPO-MEDROL has affected your co-ordination in any way.
Looking after your medicine	• DEPO-MEDROL will normally be stored in a hospital or doctor's surgery. It should be stored in its original packaging in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C. It must not be frozen.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while receiving DEPO-MEDROL?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Side effects include: nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, dizziness, mood changes, muscle weakness, pain, rash, injection site pain, fragile skin, acne, slow growth, sleeplessness, weight gain, increased sweating, bone weakness or pain, wounds that will not heal, loss in control in your diabetes, changes in menstruation, red, purple or brown patches on your skin, dilated pupils and blurred vision, fever, sore throat, mouth ulcers, itching, wheezing, drowsiness, double vision, anxiety, chest pain, severe chills, severe stomach pain, convulsions, breathlessness, increased thirst. For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

DEPO-MEDROL®

Active ingredient(s): methylprednisolone acetate

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about DEPO-MEDROL.

You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about DEPO-MEDROL.

Where to find information in this leaflet:

1. [Why am I being given DEPO-MEDROL?](#)
2. [What should I know before receiving DEPO-MEDROL?](#)
3. [What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
4. [How is DEPO-MEDROL given?](#)
5. [What should I know while receiving DEPO-MEDROL?](#)
6. [Are there any side effects?](#)
7. [Product details](#)

1. Why am I being given DEPO-MEDROL?

DEPO-MEDROL contains the active ingredient methylprednisolone.

DEPO-MEDROL is used to treat disorders of many organ systems such as skin, lung, eye, gastrointestinal tract, nervous system, joints and blood. DEPO-MEDROL works by reducing inflammation and changing the body's natural ability to respond when the immune response is not working properly. It is also used in certain conditions where the adrenal gland doesn't function correctly.

Your doctor may have prescribed DEPO-MEDROL for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why DEPO-MEDROL has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

2. What should I know before receiving DEPO-MEDROL?

Warnings

DEPO-MEDROL must not be used:

- If you are allergic to methylprednisolone acetate or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- If you have a severe fungal infection
- It must not be injected into the spinal cord (intrathecal or epidural) or into a vein (intravenous)
- It must not be given by any other unapproved route of administration
- If you have been given a live vaccine

Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

Check with your doctor if you have or have had any other medical conditions, especially the following:

- tuberculosis
- underactive or overactive thyroid gland
- kidney or liver disease
- herpes in the eye
- hypoproteinaemia (a blood clotting disorder)
- disease of the bowel, e.g., ulcerative colitis or diverticulitis
- stomach ulcers
- diabetes
- emotional problems or mental disorder
- any pus-producing infection or parasitic infections e.g., threadworm
- problems with your heart, including high blood pressure or congestive heart failure
- Cushing's disease (a hormone disorder)
- seizure disorders e.g. epilepsy
- myasthenia gravis (ongoing muscle weakness and chronic fatigue)
- muscle pain, tenderness or weakness from other medicines, especially those used to treat high cholesterol or triglycerides
- thin or weak bones, or bones that tend to break easily (osteoporosis)
- recent head injuries
- blood clots
- systemic sclerosis
- a solid cancer or cancer of the blood because you may be at risk of a very rare, potentially life-threatening condition resulting from a sudden breakdown of tumour cells.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Children

Long term treatment with corticosteroids can affect growth and development in children. It can also increase the risk of high pressure in the brain. Your doctor will monitor your child closely if your child needs long term treatment with DEPO-MEDROL.

Elderly

If you are over 65 years old, you may have an increased chance of side effects such as bone weakness possibly

leading to fractures. You may also experience fluid retention which may lead to increased blood pressure.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines or food and DEPO-MEDROL may interfere with each other. Some of these medicines and food include:

- cyclosporin, cyclophosphamide, tacrolimus (medicines used to suppress the immune system e.g. after a transplant)
- isoniazid (a medicine to treat tuberculosis)
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAID] such as salicylates or aspirin (medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation including arthritis)
- some antifungals e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole
- some antibiotics e.g. rifampicin, erythromycin, clarithromycin
- phenobarbitone, phenytoin, carbamazepine (medicines used to treat epilepsy, convulsions)
- anticoagulants (medicines used to prevent blood clots) e.g. warfarin
- some immunisations, inoculations or vaccinations
- some diuretics e.g. frusemide, a medicine to help kidneys get rid of salt and water by increasing the amount of urine (wee) produced
- neuromuscular blocking drugs (medicines that block nerve and muscle action) e.g. pancuronium
- medicines used to treat myasthenia gravis (ongoing muscle weakness and chronic fatigue), glaucoma, Alzheimer's disease
- medicines used to treat psychiatric disorders
- medicines used to treat anxiety
- bronchodilators (a type of medicine that opens up the airways in the lungs) used to treat asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and other lung diseases, e.g., salbutamol
- medicines used to treat diabetes e.g. insulin, glibenclamide and metformin
- anti-nausea medicines e.g. aprepitant, fosaprepitant
- medicines to treat HIV e.g. ritonavir
- some medicines to treat blood pressure, heart conditions and stroke, e.g., digoxin and diltiazem
- oral contraceptives e.g. ethinylestradiol, norethisterone
- grapefruit juice
- medicines used to treat breast cancer and hormone disorders.

These medicines and food may be affected by DEPO-MEDROL or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines. They also have a more complete list of medicines to be careful with or avoid while being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect DEPO-MEDROL.

4. How is DEPO-MEDROL given?

How much to use

This medicine will be administered under medical supervision.

It may be given into a muscle (intramuscularly) or into a joint (intra-articularly) or into a lesion (intralesional). Due to the risk of serious side effects, it must not be injected into the spinal cord (intrathecally or epidural) or into a vein (intravenously).

How and where DEPO-MEDROL is injected and the dose given will depend on the nature and the severity of your condition. You will be given a different dosage depending on your condition and how you react to the medicine.

If you are given too much (overdose)

Overdose is unlikely with DEPO-MEDROL. However, repeated frequent doses over a long period of time may cause an increase in side effects.

If you think that you or anyone else may have been given too much DEPO-MEDROL, you should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre
- **(by calling 13 11 26)**, or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

5. What should I know while receiving DEPO-MEDROL?

Things you must do

If you become pregnant while you are being treated with DEPO-MEDROL, tell your doctor.

If you are about to start taking any new medicines, tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

Tell your doctor that you are being treated with DEPO-MEDROL:

- before having any skin tests
- before having any kind of surgery
- if you get a serious injury or infection.

Medicines such as DEPO-MEDROL can increase the risk of infection, make existing infections worse or mask symptoms of infection.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- fever
- tiredness
- sore or swollen joints.

Your doctor may request you follow a low-salt diet and/or take potassium supplements.

If you are a diabetic, your need for insulin or glucose lowering medicines may increase while being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

Tell your doctor promptly if you experience muscle weakness, muscle aches, cramps and stiffness while using DEPO-MEDROL.

For patients having this medicine injected into their joints:

- be careful not to put too much stress onto that joint for a while
- ask your doctor how much you can move this joint while it is healing.

Your doctor may reduce the dose of DEPO-MEDROL gradually if you have been on long-term treatment.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how DEPO-MEDROL affects you.

DEPO-MEDROL may cause tiredness, dizziness or slow reflexes in some people.

Do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you feel tired, or if you feel that DEPO-MEDROL has affected your co-ordination in any way.

Drinking alcohol

No information available.

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Looking after your medicine

DEPO-MEDROL will normally be stored in a hospital or doctor's surgery. It should be stored in its original packaging in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C. It must not be frozen.

Disposal

Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will dispose of any left-over medicine.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Side effects

	What to do
Gastrointestinal (stomach-related) • nausea (feeling sick) • vomiting • diarrhoea or constipation • heartburn • increased appetite	Speak to your doctor if you have any of these side effects and

	What to do
• loss of appetite or weight loss • persistent hiccups Head and mind related • tiredness • headache or dizziness • lightheadedness • forgetfulness • sleeplessness • mood changes e.g. over-excitement, depression, suicidal thoughts, hallucinations, anxiety • changes to menstrual periods Body (skin, bone and muscle) related • fluid retention • muscle weakness, pain or loss of muscle mass • problems with your joints, including pain • problems with your growth • increased sweating • thin fragile skin or bruising • itchy or peeling skin • facial flushing/redness, heat • rashes, acne, hives • painful or tender bumps under the skin Injection site related • changes to skin at the injection site • injection site pain	they worry you.
• bone weakness (can lead to fractures) • wounds that will not heal • loss in the control of your diabetes • red, purple or brown patches on your skin • problems with your back, including pain or weakness • loss of sensation or problems with your reflexes (slow or too fast) • bouts of anxiety and headaches, sweating, palpitations, dizziness, a feeling of weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dilated pupils and blurring vision, stomach pains, and raised blood pressure. These could be symptoms of a rare tumour of the adrenal gland, which sits near the kidney.	Call your doctor straight away
• signs of increased pressure in the skull, including drowsiness,	Tell your doctor immediately,

	What to do
vomiting, headache, weakness, numbness and /or eye problems such as double vision • allergic type reactions e.g. skin rash, itching and difficulty breathing, wheezing or coughing, chest pain (anaphylactic reaction) • signs of infection such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers • severe stomach pains • blurred or distorted vision or loss of vision, eye infections • breathlessness, fatigue and swelling (heart failure) • convulsions or fits • passing large amounts of urine (wee), increased thirst and appetite • muscle pain or weakness often with passing of dark red or brown urine (wee), or only passing small amounts of wee • pain and tenderness in the leg, pain on extending the foot, swelling of the lower leg, ankle and foot	or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these symptoms

DEPO-MEDROL can also cause chemical imbalances in the blood, swelling of the pancreas (pancreatitis), masking of infections, increased risk of infection, hormone changes, metabolic changes and changes in liver enzymes, increased blood pressure, increased number of white blood cells (leucocytosis), or cataracts. Some of these side effects can only be found when your doctor does tests to check on your progress.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Some people may get other side effects while being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

It is very important to tell your doctor if you notice any side effects while being treated with DEPO-MEDROL.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/safety/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What DEPO-MEDROL contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	methylprednisolone acetate
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	Macrogol 3350 Sodium chloride Miripirium chloride

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What DEPO-MEDROL looks like

DEPO-MEDROL (AUST R 12299) is a suspension for injection packaged in a glass vial. It is supplied in cartons of 5 x 1 mL or 1 x 1 mL vials.

Who distributes DEPO-MEDROL

DEPO-MEDROL is supplied in Australia by:

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd

Sydney NSW

Toll free number: 1800 675 229

www.pfizermedicalinformation.com.au

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