



Medication Fact Sheet

Generic Name **Budesonide**

Trade Name **Entocort EC 3mg capsules**

– Not available in generic form

What is budesonide and what is it used for?

Budesonide is a steroid drug. It is different than other steroids such as prednisone because very little reaches the bloodstream and so causes few side effects than other steroids.

It works mainly in the intestine to treat, or reduce, inflammation in children with mild to moderate pediatric Crohn's disease.

Is there anything I need to know when my child is taking budesonide?

Things to remember when your child is taking this medication

- capsules should be swallowed whole, do not crush or chew
- take dose in the morning
- do not stop taking steroids suddenly as they need to be tapered off
- call your healthcare provider if your child has been exposed to chicken pox or shingles

What if my child misses a dose?

If your child misses a dose, make sure they take it as soon as possible once you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular schedule. Do not double up on the doses.

Are there food or beverage interactions we need to be aware of?

Do not take grapefruit juice can increase the effects of budesonide.

Are there medications that my child cannot take with budesonide?

Make sure that your child's healthcare provider knows if he or she is on any of the following medicines as mercaptopurine may increase or decrease their effectiveness.

- **erythromycin**
- itraconazole (**Sporanox**)
- ketoconazole (**Nizoral**)
- any drug for the treatment of AIDS

Is it safe for my child to take budesonide for long periods of time?

The FDA has approved the use of budesonide for up to 8 weeks, however steroids can be used for much longer periods of time for chronic diseases such as pediatric Crohn's disease. Please discuss this with your child's healthcare provider.

Are there any side effects of budesonide?

Adverse reactions can occur with any drug. Minor reactions can go away on their own but if they continue, contact your child's healthcare provider. For major reactions contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

Minor

- acne
- nausea
- headache
- respiratory infection
- skin striae or markings
- swollen or moon face

Major

- *depression
- *hip or knee pain