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## Medication Fact Sheet

**Generic Name**    **Prednisone**

– This drug is available in a generic form

**Trade Name**      **Deltasone**

**2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 50mg  
tabs**

**Orasone**

**1mg, 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 50mg tabs**

**Liquid Pred**

– oral solution or syrup 5mg per 5ml

### **What is prednisone and what is it used for?**

Prednisone is a steroid drug. It has an anti-inflammatory effect and is used to treat the inflammation in the bowel associated with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

### **Is there anything I need to know when my child is taking prednisone?**

- the drug can be taken with or without food.
- the tablets may be crushed and there is a liquid solution available.
- extra calcium and vitamin D are recommended for children because prednisone causes loss of calcium from the bone

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- do not stop taking this drug suddenly, it requires gradual tapering. Follow the healthcare providers instructions carefully.

### **What if my child misses a dose?**

If your child is only taking prednisone one time a day, he or she should take it as soon as you remember that day. If you don't remember until the next day, take one dose, do not double up on your dose. If your child is taking Prednisone two times a day, take the missed dose as soon as you remember and get back on the regular schedule. Do not stop this drug suddenly.

### **Are there any food or drink interactions with prednisone?**

There are no known interactions with food or beverages. However, prednisone may cause retention of sodium, so keep your child's sodium intake to a minimum. Your child does not need to restrict all sodium from their diet, just no added salt to food and foods high in sodium like potato chips.

### **Are there any medications my child cannot take with Prednisone?**

Prednisone may increase or decrease the effects of the following drugs. Discuss this with your child's healthcare provider if your child is taking any of the following medicines:

- **aspirin**
- **birth control pills**
- rifampin (**Rifadin**)
- amphotericin B (**Fungizone**)
- estrogen (**Premarin**)
- barbiturates (**Phenobarbital, Donnatal**)
- carbamazepine (**Tegretol**)
- cyclosporin (**Sandimmune, Neoral**)
- ketoconazole (**Nizoral**)
- blood thinners (**Coumadin**)
- phenytoin (**Dialantin**)

### **Is it safe for my child to take Prednisone for long periods of time?**

Due to the side effects of Prednisone, it is best to keep children on the lowest dose for the shortest period of time. However this is not always possible in the treatment of Pedi IBD, so it is important that children be followed carefully by their healthcare provider when on this drug.

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### **Are there any side effects with prednisone?**

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

#### **Minor**

- acne
- weight gain
- facial roundness
- rash
- nervousness/mood swings

#### **Major**

- abdominal pain
- blurred vision
- bloody or black stools
- painful joints
- osteoporosis
- depression
- infections
- unusual amount of fatigue or weakness