

Cortenema (hydrocortisone) basics

Treats ulcerative colitis with other medicines. Cortenema (hydrocortisone) is used with other medicines to treat ulcerative colitis, but will only help with symptoms of the lower intestine, colon, and anus.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Cortenema (hydrocortisone) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Burning or pain in rectal area					
Rectal bleeding					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Cortenema (hydrocortisone) can stain your clothes and fabrics.
- Only use Cortenema (hydrocortisone) rectally. It is best to use Cortenema (hydrocortisone) after you have gotten into bed for the night.
- Shake well before using.
- After using Cortenema (hydrocortisone), remain in the same position for at least 30 minutes. It's best to retain the enema overnight if you can. You can use antidiarrheal medicine (Immodium, etc) or sedatives (Unisom, Zzzquil, etc) to prevent yourself from defecating.
- Make sure to keep Cortenema (hydrocortisone) away from heat.
- Don't use Cortenema (hydrocortisone) if you have a fungal infection.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Rectal wall damage

Make sure you understand and read the instructions on how to use Cortenema (hydrocortisone) properly. Improper use can cause damage to the rectal wall. Let your doctor or pharmacist know if you have any questions on how to use Cortenema (hydrocortisone).

Infections

Cortenema (hydrocortisone) can cause you to have infections more easily and may hide some signs of infections. If you feel you're coming down with an infection or illness, let your doctor know.

Use only on intact skin

Only use Cortenema (hydrocortisone) in the rectum if the skin is intact. If you are experiencing a flare-up or have blood in your stool, talk with your doctor before using Cortenema (hydrocortisone).