

Medrol (methylprednisolone) basics

Calms down your immune system. Medrol (methylprednisolone) is very effective for controlling allergic reactions and many types of inflammatory conditions, but it is associated with serious and potentially life-threatening side effects if you have to take it for a long time.

What to expect when starting

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



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Medrol (methylprednisolone) in the morning with food to lower your chances of getting stomach upset and having trouble sleeping. For an evening dose, it is best to take the medicine at least 2 to 3 hours before bedtime.
- Medrol (methylprednisolone) can increase your appetite, make your body retain more water, and cause changes to your mood.
- Medrol (methylprednisolone) can increase your blood pressure and blood sugar at higher doses. If you have high blood pressure or diabetes, it is important that you check your blood pressure and blood sugar regularly while taking this medicine.
- If you need to take Medrol (methylprednisolone) for longer than 2 weeks, you may need to gradually stop taking this medicine. Take it exactly as your doctor told you and do not stop suddenly.
- While you are on this medicine, don't get any live vaccines, unless approved by your doctor.
- Medrol (methylprednisolone) can increase your chances of getting an infection. Call your doctor right away if you have a fever, chills, flu-like symptoms, cough, pain with passing urine, or a wound that will not heal.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Weakened immune system response to stress

If you've been taking Medrol (methylprednisolone) for a long time, it is dangerous to stop taking it suddenly since your body may have become dependent on it for responding to stress. Changes in your dose need to be done gradually over time. Talk to your doctor about how you should decrease the dose.

Increased risk for infections

Taking Medrol (methylprednisolone) for a long time can increase your risk of getting infections and mask some signs of infection. Be careful not to be in contact with anyone who has chicken pox or measles. If you had tuberculosis (TB) in the past your doctor will need to monitor you while taking Medrol (methylprednisolone). You may or may not need to take medicine for TB to prevent or treat it. Also, talk to your doctor first before getting any types of vaccines because they might not work as well or they may increase

Changes in heart and kidney function

Medrol (methylprednisolone) can cause high blood pressure, unexplained weight gain, and other changes in the way your kidneys work. If you have a history of heart failure, high blood pressure, or kidney problems, talk to your doctor first before using this medicine.