

TABLE e-2. ESTIMATED COSTS FOR A 14-DAY COURSE OF ACTH AND PREDNISOLONE

Dose	Cost for 1-day	Cost for 14 days
ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE (ACTH)		
ACTH 50 IU (3 months)	\$5,980	\$83,720
ACTH 60 IU (6 months)	\$7,176	\$100,464
ACTH 70 IU (10 months)	\$8,371	\$117,194
Prednisolone		
Prednisolone 40 mg/day (3 months)	\$12	\$168
Prednisolone 50 mg/day (6 months)	\$15	\$210
Prednisolone 60 mg/day (10 months)	\$18	\$252

All prices rounded to the nearest integer.

Explanation: Using wholesale prices for ACTH and prednisolone we calculated typical doses for a 3-month, 6-month, and 10-month old infant using their typical weight and body surface. These ages are the minimum, likeliest, and maximum ages of an approximate triangular distribution that represents well the age at which infantile spasms are treated ¹. The dose for intramuscular ACTH was estimated based on a 150 IU/m²/day dose. The dose for oral prednisolone was estimated based on a 4-8 mg/Kg/day dose.

The price of intramuscular ACTH and oral prednisolone in the USA was estimated from Lexicomp ^{2,3}, and confirmed that the consumer prices were within the right range with Drugs.com ⁴, DrugBank ⁵, and local retailer pharmacies.

Legend: ACTH: Adrenocorticotrophic hormone. **\$:** USA dollar.

REFERENCES

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