

FORMULARY

Dexamethasone (Decadron)

Class of Drug	Corticosteroid, Anti-Inflammatory
Mechanism of Action	Dexamethasone is a glucocorticoid agonist. Dexamethasone inhibits leukocyte infiltration at the site of inflammation, interferes in the function of mediators of inflammatory response, suppresses the humoral immune responses and reduces edema or scar tissue.
Indications	Bronchoconstriction as a result of croup, asthma, COPD or anaphylaxis.
Contraindications	Sensitivity to dexamethasone and systemic fungal infections.
Adverse Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The most commonly occurring side effects have included alteration in glucose tolerance, behavioral and mood changes, increased appetite, and weight gain; the incidence generally correlates with dosage, timing of administration, and duration of treatment.
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use dexamethasone with caution during pregnancy if benefits outweigh risks.▪ Dexamethasone is excreted in breast milk; it is not recommended for use while breastfeeding.
Dosing/Administration	Adult: 4-10 mg IV, IM, PO or Nebulized (max of 10 mg). Pediatric: 0.6 mg/kg IV, IM, PO or Nebulized up to a max dose of 10 mg.
Pregnancy Category	Class C Uncertain safety – animal studies show adverse effect but no human studies exist