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2. Decadron

Decadron

Generic name: [dexamethasone](#) (oral) [*dex-a-METH-a-son*e]

Brand names: Dexabliss 11-Day Dose Pack, [DexAMETHasone Intensol](#), Dxevo 11-Day Dose Pack, [Hemady](#), HiDex 6-Day Taper Package, ... [show all 11 brands](#)

Drug class: [Glucocorticoids](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 4, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)



The Decadron brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

What is Decadron?

There are many brands and forms of [dexamethasone](#) available. Not all brands are listed on this leaflet.

Decadron is a steroid that prevents the release of substances in the body that cause inflammation.

Decadron is used to treat many different conditions such as allergic disorders, [skin conditions](#), [ulcerative colitis](#), arthritis, lupus, psoriasis, or breathing disorders.

Decadron may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Decadron side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Decadron may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- muscle tightness, weakness, or limp feeling;
- blurred vision, tunnel vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights;
- [shortness of breath](#) (even with mild exertion), swelling, rapid weight gain;
- severe depression, unusual thoughts or behavior;
- a seizure (convulsions);
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood;

- fast or [slow heart rate](#), weak pulse;
- **pancreatitis**--severe pain in your upper stomach spreading to your back, nausea and vomiting;
- **low potassium level**--leg cramps, constipation, irregular heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, increased thirst or urination, numbness or tingling; or
- **increased blood pressure**--severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears, anxiety, nosebleed.

Decadron can affect growth in children. Tell your doctor if your child is not growing at a normal rate while using Decadron.

Common side effects of Decadron may include:

- [fluid retention](#) (swelling in your hands or ankles);
- increased appetite;
- mood changes, trouble sleeping;
- skin rash, bruising or discoloration;
- acne, increased sweating, increased hair growth;
- headache, dizziness;
- nausea, vomiting, [upset stomach](#);
- changes in your menstrual periods; or
- changes in the shape or location of body fat (especially in your arms, legs, face, neck, breasts, and waist).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Decadron side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Benlysta

Benlysta infusion is used to treat active systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and active lupus ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

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Carvykti

Carvykti (ciltacabtagene autoleucel) is used for the treatment of relapsed or refractory multiple ...

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Entyvio

Entyvio (vedolizumab) is used to treat ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease, reducing ...

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Abecma

Abecma is a CAR T cell therapy used to treat relapsed refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM); it is a ...

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Nplate

Nplate is used to prevent bleeding episodes in people with chronic immune thrombocytopenic purpura ...

Reviews & ratings

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Otezla (apremilast) is used to treat plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, and oral ulcers ...

Reviews & ratings

5.2 / 10

[439 Reviews](#)

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Saphnelo

Saphnelo is used for moderate to severe SLE (lupus) for adults who are also receiving other lupus ...

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8.4 / 10

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Skyrizi

Skyrizi (risankizumab) is used to treat plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

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Tecvayli

Tecvayli (teclistamab) is a treatment for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma(cancer of the ...

Reviews & ratings

[5 Reviews](#)

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Dupixent

Dupixent may be used to treat eczema, eosinophilic or oral-corticosteroid-dependent asthma, chronic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

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Warnings

You should not use this medicine if you have a [fungal infection](#) anywhere in your body.

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, and all the medicines you are using. **There are many other diseases that can be affected by steroid use, and many other medicines that can interact with steroids.**

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Decadron if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- a fungal infection anywhere in your body.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [liver disease](#) (such as cirrhosis);
- kidney disease;
- a thyroid disorder;
- malaria;
- tuberculosis;
- osteoporosis;
- a muscle disorder such as [myasthenia gravis](#);
- diabetes (steroid medicine may increase glucose levels in your blood or urine);
- glaucoma or cataracts;
- herpes infection of the eyes;
- stomach ulcers, ulcerative colitis, [diverticulitis](#), [inflammatory bowel disease](#);
- depression or mental illness;
- congestive [heart failure](#); or
- [high blood pressure](#).

Steroid medication affects your immune system. **You may get infections more easily.** Steroids can also worsen or reactivate an infection you've already had. Tell your doctor about any illness or infection you have had within the past several weeks.

It is not known whether Decadron will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant.

You should not breastfeed while using Decadron.

How should I take Decadron?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Your dose needs may change due to surgery, illness, stress, or a medical emergency. Tell your doctor about any such

situation that affects you.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using Decadron.

Do not stop using Decadron suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using this medicine.

In case of emergency, wear or carry medical identification to let others know you use Decadron.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Decadron dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss a dose of Decadron.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

An overdose of dexamethasone is not expected to produce life threatening symptoms. **Long term use of high doses** can lead to thinning skin, easy bruising, changes in body fat (especially in your face, neck, back, and waist), increased acne or facial hair, menstrual problems, impotence, or loss of interest in sex.

What should I avoid while taking Decadron?

Avoid being near people who are sick or have infections. Call your doctor for preventive treatment if you are exposed to chickenpox or measles. These conditions can be serious or even fatal in people who are using steroid medicine.

Avoid drinking alcohol while you are taking Decadron.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine while using Decadron. The vaccine may not work as well during this time, and may not fully protect you from disease. Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), polio, rotavirus, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), and zoster (shingles).

What other drugs will affect Decadron?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect Decadron, especially:

- an antibiotic or antifungal medicine;
- [birth control pills](#) or hormone replacement therapy;
- insulin or diabetes medications you take by mouth;
- medicine to treat dementia or [Parkinson's disease](#);
- **a blood thinner**--warfarin, Coumadin, Jantoven; or

- **NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)**--aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), celecoxib, diclofenac, [indomethacin](#), meloxicam, and others.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect Decadron. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Decadron drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Decadron interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Decadron

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Popular FAQ

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What is a dexamethasone suppression test used for?



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Patient resources

- [Decadron injection drug information](#)

Other brands

[Dexamethasone Intensol](#), [TaperDex](#), [ZoDex](#), [Dexpak Taperpak](#), ... +4 more

Professional resources

- [Decadron prescribing information](#)
- [Decadron Elixir \(FDA\)](#)
- [Dexamethasone \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[TaperDex](#), [ZoDex](#), [Dexpak Taperpak](#), [Zcort](#), ... +6 more

Related treatment guides

- [Allergic Rhinitis](#)
- [Adrenal Insufficiency](#)
- [Addison's Disease](#)
- [Adrenocortical Insufficiency](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability		
	Discontinued	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
10+ years	FDA approved 1958	▼
WADA Class		
	Anti-Doping Classification	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

3.9 / 10

[29 Reviews](#)

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