

[Home](#)

2. Kenalog-40

Kenalog-40

Generic name: [triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/mL](#)**Dosage form:** intra-articular/intramuscular injection**Drug class:** [Glucocorticoids](#)Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Jun 20, 2023.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is Kenalog-40?

Kenalog-40 is a long-acting corticosteroid injection for intramuscular (into the muscle) or intra-articular (into the joints) use. It may be used to treat many different types of inflammatory conditions, including severe allergic reactions, skin disorders (including those caused by autoimmune disorders), severe colitis, inflammation of the joints or tendons, blood cell disorders, inflammatory eye disorders, lung disorders, and problems caused by low adrenal gland hormones.

Kenalog-40 contains triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/mL.

Kenalog-40 was FDA-approved on February 1, 1965.

Warnings

- Rarely, anaphylactic reactions have occurred in patients receiving corticosteroids, including triamcinolone acetonide injections.
- Because Kenalog-40 is a suspension, it must not be administered intravenously.
- You may not be able to receive Kenalog-40 if you have a fungal infection, or a condition called idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).
- Kenalog-40 injection contains benzyl alcohol and exposure to excessive amounts has been associated with toxicity (such as hypotension and metabolic acidosis), particularly in neonates, and an increased risk of kernicterus (a type of brain damage caused by high levels of bilirubin in a baby's blood). The amount of benzyl alcohol that causes toxicity is unknown but the combined daily amount of benzyl alcohol from all sources must be considered.
- If given intramuscularly, Kenalog-40 should be injected deeply into a large muscle, such as a gluteal muscle, rather than a deltoid muscle, because of the increased risk of local atrophy (shrinkage of tissue).
- Kenalog-40 is long-acting and not useful in acute stress situations. Supportive corticosteroid treatments may be necessary in times of stress, such as trauma, surgery, or severe illness during treatment with Kenalog-40 and for a year afterward.
- High dosages should not be used for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

Before taking this medicine

You should not be treated with Kenalog-40 if you are allergic to it.

You may not be able to receive Kenalog-40 if you have an infection or a condition called idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).

Corticosteroids such as Kenalog-40 can affect your body's response to vaccines. Administration of live or live attenuated vaccines is contraindicated.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- an active or chronic infection, including tuberculosis
- idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)
- high blood pressure, heart problems, a recent heart attack
- cataracts, glaucoma, or herpes infection of the eyes
- a colostomy or ileostomy, or stomach surgery
- a head injury
- a nerve-muscle disorder, such as myasthenia gravis
- a parasite infection that causes diarrhea (such as threadworms)
- a previously unstable or infected joint or one you suspect is currently infected
- a problem with your thyroid or adrenal gland
- a peptic ulcer, diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis
- kidney or liver disease
- low bone mineral density.

Children are more susceptible to the effects of corticosteroids and the use of Kenalog-40 can lead to bone growth inhibition in pediatric patients and growth suppression

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Corticosteroids such as Kenalog-40 are teratogenic in many species when given in doses equivalent to the human dose and animal studies have shown a higher incidence of cleft palate in the offspring. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Administer only if the potential benefit justifies the risk.

Systemically administered corticosteroids such as Kenalog-40 appear in human milk and could suppress growth, interfere with endogenous corticosteroid production, or cause other untoward effects. Be cautious when administering to a breastfeeding woman.

 [Kenalog-40 pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How is Kenalog-40 given?

Kenalog-40 is given through a needle and can be injected into different areas of the body: into a muscle, into the space around a joint or tendon, or a lesion on the skin. A healthcare provider will give you this injection.

Systemic (intramuscular)

The initial dose of Kenalog-40 Injection may vary from 2.5 mg to 100 mg per day depending on the condition being treated and the person being treated.

- The suggested initial intramuscular dose is 60mg, injected deep into the gluteal muscle then dosage is usually adjusted within the range of 40mg to 80mg. Some patients may be controlled on dosages as low as 20mg or less.
- The dose should be individualized and the lowest dose used to control the condition.
- Single seasonal injections of 40mg to 100mg may be effective for patients with hay fever or pollen asthma not responding to conventional therapy.
- For children, an initial dosage range of 0.11 to 1.6 mg/kg/day in 3 or 4 divided doses (3.2 to 48 mg/m²bsa/day) is suggested.

Intra-articular

Single local injections are usually sufficient but several injections may be needed.

Initial dose: 2.5mg – 5 mg (up to 10mg) for smaller joints and from 5mg – 15mg (up to 40mg) for larger joints.

Other information

Kenalog-40 can weaken (suppress) your immune system, and you may get an infection more easily. Call your doctor if you have unusual bruising or bleeding, or signs of infection (fever, weakness, cold or flu symptoms, skin sores, diarrhea, frequent or recurring illness). Viral infections, such as chickenpox or measles may have a more serious or even fatal course in children and adults.

Long-term use of steroids can cause harmful effects on the eyes. If you receive Kenalog-40 for longer than 6 weeks, your doctor may want you to have regular eye exams.

Your doctor may instruct you to limit your salt intake while you are receiving Kenalog-40. You may also need to take potassium supplements. Follow all instructions.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using Kenalog-40.

You should not stop using Kenalog-40 suddenly after long-term repeated use, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using this medicine.

 [Detailed Kenalog-40 dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss an appointment for a scheduled Kenalog-40.

When Kenalog-40 is used as a single dose, you will not be on a regular dosing schedule.

What happens if I overdose?

Since Kenalog-40 is given by a healthcare professional in a medical setting, an overdose is unlikely to occur.

Using too much Kenalog-40 is not likely to cause serious problems. However, 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 receiving Kenalog-40?

After injection of triamcinolone into a joint, avoid overusing that joint through strenuous activity or high-impact sports. You could cause damage to the joint.

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 Kenalog-40.

Do not receive a "live" vaccine or a toxoid vaccine while using Kenalog-40, or you could develop a serious infection. Live vaccines include measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), polio, rotavirus, typhoid, yellow fever, varicella (chickenpox), zoster (shingles), and nasal flu (influenza) vaccine. Toxoid vaccines include diphtheria-tetanus toxoid (DT or Td).

What are the side effects of Kenalog-40?

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

Kenalog-40 may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- (after injection into a joint space) increased pain or swelling, joint stiffness, fever, and general ill feeling
- blurred vision, tunnel vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights
- unusual changes in mood or behavior
- swelling, rapid weight gain, feeling short of breath
- stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, bloody or tarry stools, rectal irritation
- sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body)
- a seizure (convulsions)
- severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears
- increased pressure inside the skull--severe headaches, ringing in your ears, dizziness, nausea, vision problems, pain behind your eyes
- signs of low adrenal gland hormones--flu-like symptoms, headache, depression, weakness, tiredness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, craving salty foods, and feeling light-headed.

Certain side effects may be more likely with long-term use or repeated doses of Kenalog-40, such as osteoporosis.

Steroids can affect growth in children. Tell your doctor if your child is not growing at a normal rate while using Kenalog-40.

Common side effects of Kenalog-40 may include:

- skin changes (acne, dryness, redness, bruising, discoloration)
- increased hair growth, or thinning hair

- nausea, bloating, appetite changes
- stomach or side pain
- cough, runny or stuffy nose
- fluid retention
- headache, sleep problems (insomnia)
- a wound that is slow to heal
- sweating more than usual
- changes in your menstrual periods.

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.

 [Kenalog-40 side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Nplate

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

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[11 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Otezla

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

Reviews & ratings

5.2 / 10

[439 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Benlysta

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

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

7.9 / 10

[63 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Saphnelo

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

Reviews & ratings

8.4 / 10

[10 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Skyrizi

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

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[56 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Xeljanz

Xeljanz (tofacitinib) is an oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor that may be used alone or with other ...

Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[145 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Stelara

Stelara (ustekinumab) is used to treat Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, plaque psoriasis, and ...

Reviews & ratings

7.6 / 10

[252 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Rinvoq

Rinvoq (upadacitinib) is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, atopic ...

Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[223 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Meloxicam

Meloxicam is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain or inflammation caused by ...

Reviews & ratings

6.3 / 10

[600 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect Kenalog-40?

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 Kenalog-40, especially:

- antibiotics or antifungal medications
- birth control pills or hormone replacement therapies
- blood thinners (such as warfarin or dabigatran)

- digoxin
- diuretics ("water pills")
- insulin or oral diabetes medicine
- medicine to treat tuberculosis
- nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac, and indomethacin) or
- seizure medications.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect Kenalog-40. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

i [Kenalog-40 drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Kenalog-40 interact with my other drugs?

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

Kenalog-40

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Storage

Store at room temperature 20°C – 25°C (68°F – 77°F). Do not freeze. Protect from light.

Kenalog-40 is sensitive to heat and the vial should not be autoclaved when it is desirable to sterilize the exterior.

Ingredients

Active: triamcinolone acetonide 40mg/mL.

Inactive: sodium chloride for isotonicity, 0.99% (w/v) benzyl alcohol as a preservative, carboxymethylcellulose sodium, polysorbate 80, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, nitrogen.

- Once drawn up it should be injected without delay.
- The vial should be shaken before use to ensure a uniform suspension. If there is any clumping or aggregation of ingredients, it should not be used (usually caused by freezing).
- A strict aseptic technique is mandatory.
- Available in 1mL, 5mL, and 10 mL vials.

Manufacturer

Popular FAQ

Where should you not use triamcinolone acetonide cream?



Is triamcinolone acetonide an antifungal cream?



Is triamcinolone good for poison ivy?



Clobetasol vs. triamcinolone - how do they compare?



What are steroid injections (cortisone shots)?



Halobetasol vs triamcinolone: which is better?



More FAQ

- [What causes Plaque Psoriasis?](#)
- [Can triamcinolone acetonide B be used to treat severe diaper rash on a little girl?](#)

References

1. [FDA Product Information](#)

More about Kenalog-40 (triamcinolone)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(116\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: glucocorticoids](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Zilretta](#), [Aristocort](#), [Azmacort](#), [Triamcot](#), ... +4 more

Professional resources

- [Kenalog-40 prescribing information](#)
- [Triamcinolone Acetonide \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Zilretta](#)

Other formulations

- [Kenalog](#)
- [Kenalog-10](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Osteoarthritis](#)
- [Alopecia](#)
- [Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Adrenocortical Insufficiency](#)

Further information

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

| Availability | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Rx | Prescription only | |
| Pregnancy & Lactation | | |
|  | Risk data available | |
| CSA Schedule* | | |
| N/A | Not a controlled drug | ▼ |
| Approval History | | |
|  | Drug history at FDA | ▼ |
| WADA Class | | |
|  | Anti-Doping Classification | ▼ |

User Reviews & Ratings

6.3 / 10

[116 Reviews](#)

Related News

[Do Steroid Shots Help Ease Back Pain? Experts Weigh In](#)

Images

[Kenalog-40 40 mg/mL injectable suspension](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.