


Section: Drug Reference
Subject: METHYLPREDNISOLONE (SOLUMEDROL®)
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Methylprednisolone

1. CLASSIFICATION
 - a. Glucocorticoid
2. ACTIONS / DESCRIPTIONS
 - a. Naturally occurring steroid that suppresses acute and chronic inflammation.
 - b. Potentiates vascular smooth muscle relaxation by beta-adrenergic agonists, and may alter airway hyperactivity.
3. INDICATIONS
 - a. Inhalation of hot smoke and gases.
 - b. Anaphylaxis / allergic reactions
 - c. Bronchodilator / unresponsive asthma
 - d. COPD
 - e. Bronchial asthma
 - f. Shock (controversial)
 - g. Acute spinal cord injury (controversial)
4. CONTRAINDICATIONS
 - a. Use with caution in patients with GI bleeding.
5. PRECAUTIONS
 - a. Use with caution in patients with history of GI ulcers, CHF, and seizures.
 - b. Use extreme caution in patients with history of recent MI.
6. ADVERSE REACTIONS
 - a. Few short term
 - b. Headache
 - c. Hypertension
 - d. Sodium and water retention
7. DRUG ACTION TIME
 - a. Onset: rapid
 - b. Duration: seven days
8. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION POINTS
 - a. Pre-hospital use, even with long onset time
 - b. Usage for reduction of post traumatic non-penetrating spinal cord edema within 8 hours of injury.
 - c. Use with extreme caution in patients with history of recent MI due to development of muscle weakening cardiomyopathy.
 - d. Use cautiously in patients with a history of GI ulcers, CHF, and seizures.
 - e. Cardiac arrest has been reported following rapid administration