



What's my Drug?

Fludrocortisone is a steroid medicine. It is mainly used as a form of hormone replacement for under-activity of the adrenal glands (Addison's disease). It can also help with low blood pressure.

How to take it: Wash the tablets down with a small drink of water. Check with your pharmacist or doctor about how to store these tablets at the correct temperature.

Possible side effects include: Your blood pressure could go up. You could get headaches or muscle weakness. Heart problems where your heart does not work as well as it should (heart failure) are possible. Oedema or swelling due to fluid is possible. Potassium (a mineral in your blood) can go up. Your doctor will check for this with blood tests.

Rare but important side effects: Nervous problems can happen such as imagining things that are not there or hallucinations, seizures or fits, fainting, or even passing out. It can cause mood changes such as depression and very occasionally significant mental health problems (psychosis). This medicine can affect the eye which could cause vision problems. Contact a doctor if you notice any vision problems. Growth can be affected in children. Change of taste can happen as well as diarrhoea or decreased appetite.

Warnings and Cautions: Never stop this long-term steroid treatment suddenly. If your treatment finishes you will be advised how to wean off them safely. If you become ill while taking steroids, let your doctor know. You may have to increase the dose for a while. If you get chickenpox or measles while on this treatment it can make the infection more severe. Keep away from anyone who may have either of these viral infections. If you have diabetes you may find this treatment can affect your blood glucose levels, although this effect is far less likely with this steroid than with some others. Discuss it with your doctor if necessary. Steroids don't mix well with some other drugs so check with your health professional. You should not be given live vaccines while on this treatment. You should be given a Steroid Treatment Card when you start this treatment. Carry it with you at all times. If you lose it, obtain another one from your health professional as soon as possible. Carefully check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of all its other potential side effects. For women:

there are potential problems using this medicine during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Discuss this with your doctor if you become pregnant or plan to become pregnant.