

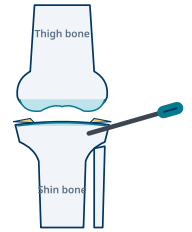
Corticosteroids

What it is

Corticosteroids, such as prednisone, are strong medicines that calm swelling quickly. They are often used for short periods during a flare. They can be taken by mouth or given as a shot.



Short course of
tablets



Or a shot into
one joint

Who it may help

- Flares of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, vasculitis and other conditions
- Gout flares
- Polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis

Self-care tips

- Take with food in the morning, unless told otherwise.
- Do not stop suddenly after long use.
- Ask about bone health, blood sugar and blood pressure checks.
- Tell every provider that you take steroids.

What to expect

Before you start: Your rheumatologist reviews your health and may order blood tests.

Taking it: Usually taken by mouth for a short time, or given as a shot into one joint. Do not stop suddenly after long use; your doctor will lower the dose slowly.

Follow-up: You have regular visits and lab tests to check how it works and watch for side effects.

When to call us

- Fever or signs of infection
- High blood sugar readings, or a lot of thirst
- Mood changes or trouble sleeping that worry you
- Vision changes

Call 911 for trouble breathing, or swelling of the face, lips or throat.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/services/rheumatology/treatments/corticosteroids/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.