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Steroids

Also called: **Corticosteroids, Glucocorticoids**



You may have heard of [anabolic steroids](#), which can have harmful effects. But there's another type of steroid - sometimes called a corticosteroid - that treats a variety of problems. These steroids are similar to hormones that your adrenal glands make to fight stress associated with illnesses and injuries. They reduce inflammation and affect the immune system.

You may need to take corticosteroids to treat

- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Autoimmune diseases such as lupus and multiple sclerosis
- Skin conditions such as eczema and rashes
- Some kinds of cancer

Steroids are strong medicines, and they can have side effects, including weakened bones and cataracts. Because of this, you usually take them for as short a time as possible.

Start Here

- [About Steroids \(Inhaled and Oral Corticosteroids\)](#) (National Jewish Health)
- [Prednisone and Other Corticosteroids: Balance the Risks and Benefits](#) (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in [Spanish](#)

Related Issues

- [Glucocorticoid-Induced Osteoporosis](#) (American College of Rheumatology)
Also in [Spanish](#)
- [How to Stop Steroid Medicines Safely](#) (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in [Spanish](#)

Specifics

- [Anti-Inflammatories and Corticosteroids](#) (American Association for Respiratory Care)
- [Corticosteroids](#) (Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America)

(North American Spine

- [Epidural Steroid Injections](#) (North American Spine Society)
- [Inhaled Steroids](#) (National Jewish Health)
- [Oral Steroids \(Steroid Pills and Syrups\)](#) (National Jewish Health)
- [Steroids for Treating Cancer \(For Parents\)](#) (Nemours Foundation)
Also in [Spanish](#)

(Consumers Union of U.S.) -

- [Treating Asthma with Inhaled Steroids](#) PDF

(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and




- [What You Can Expect with a Cortisone Shot](#) (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in [Spanish](#)

Images

(Johns Hopkins Vasculitis

- [Prednisone](#) (Johns Hopkins Vasculitis Center)

Clinical Trials

- [ClinicalTrials.gov: Adrenal Cortex Hormones](#)  (National Institutes of Health)
- [ClinicalTrials.gov: Glucocorticoids](#)  (National Institutes of Health)
- [ClinicalTrials.gov: Prednisone](#)  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- [Article: Intratympanic glucocorticosteroid therapy for idiopathic sudden hearing loss: Meta-analysis of...](#)
- [Article: GLCCI1 rs37973: A potential genetic predictor of therapeutic response to...](#)
- [Article: Concurrent injection of dexamethasone intravitreal implant and anti-angiogenic agent in...](#)
- [Steroids -- see more articles](#)

Children

- [Corticosteroids](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in [Spanish](#)

Women

(Organization of Teratology Information Specialists) -

- [Inhaled Corticosteroids \(ICSs\) and Pregnancy](#) PDF
Also in [Spanish](#)

Patient Handouts

(Medical

- [Steroid injections - tendon, bursa, joint](#) (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in [Spanish](#)

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[Steroid injections - tendon, bursa, joint](#)

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8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894

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