Dexamethasone

General description

Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid used in the treatment of various conditions where corticosteroids are indicated, including pain and oedema due to malignancy, nausea and vomiting, and in treatment protocols for some blood tissue cancers.

INN	Dexamethasone
ATC codes	H02AB02 C05AA09 L01AA01
Medicine type	Chemical agent
EML status history	First added in 1977 (TRS 615) for Lymphoid leukaemia, not elsewhere classified Changed in 1984 (TRS 722) for Allergic or hypersensitivity conditions of unspecified type Changed in 1991 (TRS 825) for Palliative care Changed in 2009 (TRS 958) for Nausea or vomiting Changed in 2013 (TRS 985) for Respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, altered by maternal corticosteroid therapy Changed in 2019 (TRS 1021) for Plasma cell myeloma Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035) for Burkitt lymphoma including Burkitt leukaemia Changed in 2023 (TRS 1049) for Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-negative Changed in 2023 (TRS 1049) for Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-positive
Wikipedia	Dexamethasone
DrugBank	Dexamethasone

Recommendations

Section Hormones and antihormones

- Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate, equivalent to 3.3 mg/mL dexamethasone base)
- Oral > Solid > tablet: 2 mg (as dexamethasone base); 4 mg (as dexamethasone base)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate, equivalent to 3.3 mg/mL dexamethasone base
- Oral > Solid > tablet: 4 mg (as dexamethasone base)
- Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL
- Oral > Solid: 2 mg; 4 mg
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (as disodium phosophate salt)

Indications

Lymphoid leukaemia, not elsewhere classified

Plasma cell myeloma

Burkitt lymphoma including Burkitt leukaemia

Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-positive

Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-negative

Section Antiallergics and medicines used in anaphylaxis

- Oral > Liquid: 0.5 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate); 2 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate, equivalent to 3.3 mg/mL dexamethasone base)
- Oral > Solid > tablet: 0.5 mg (as dexamethasone base); 0.75 mg (as dexamethasone base); 1.5 mg (as dexamethasone base); 2 mg (as dexamethasone base); 4 mg (as dexamethasone base)

Indications

Allergic or hypersensitivity conditions of unspecified type

Section Antiemetic medicines

- Oral > Liquid: 0.5 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate); 2 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate, equivalent to 3.3 mg/mL dexamethasone base)
- Oral > Solid > tablet: 0.5 mg (as dexamethasone base); 0.75 mg (as dexamethasone base); 1.5 mg (as dexamethasone base); 4 mg (as dexamethasone base); 2 mg (as dexamethasone base)

Indications

Nausea or vomiting

Section Other medicines administered to the mother

- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL (dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium))

Indications

Respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, altered by maternal corticosteroid therapy

Section Medicines for other common symptoms in palliative care

- Oral > Liquid: 2 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate); 0.5 mg per 5 mL (as sodium phosphate)
- Parenteral > General injections > unspecified: 4 mg per mL in 1 mL ampoule (dexamethasone phosphate (as sodium phosphate) equialent to 3.3 mg dexamethasone base)
- Oral > Solid > tablet: 2 mg (as dexamethasone base); 4 mg (as dexamethasone base); 0.5 mg (as dexamethasone base); 0.75 mg (as dexamethasone base); 1.5 mg (as dexamethasone base)

Indications

Palliative care