

Dexamethasone

Essential medicine status

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](#)

Added in 1984 ([TRS 722](#)) for [Allergic or hypersensitivity conditions of unspecified type](#)

Added in 1991 ([TRS 825](#)) for [Palliative care](#)

Added in 2009 ([TRS 958](#)) for [Nausea or vomiting](#)

Added in 2013 ([TRS 985](#)) for [Respiratory distress syndrome of the newborn, altered by maternal corticosteroid therapy](#)

Added in 2019 ([TRS 1021](#)) for [Plasma cell myeloma](#)

Added in 2021 ([TRS 1035](#)) for [Burkitt lymphoma including Burkitt leukaemia](#)

Added in 2023 ([TRS 1049](#)) for [Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK-negative](#)

Added 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 phosphate 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) equivalent 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](#)