



NEBRASKA CANCER SPECIALISTS

the Physicians of Oncology Hematology West

Solu-Medrol ®

Generic name: Methylprednisolone

Drug type: Solu-Medrol is used most often as a supportive care medication. Solu-Medrol is classified as a glucocorticosteroid.

How Solu-Medrol is given:

- This medication may be given to you in many forms. If given in a pill form and you miss a dose, take the dose as soon as you remember.
- Take pills with food or after meals.
- This medication may also be given by injection into the muscle (intramuscular, IM) or into the vein (intravenously, IV).

Side effects of Solu-Medrol:

Important things to remember about the side effects of Solu-Medrol include:

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed.
- Side effects are almost always reversible and will usually go away after treatment is complete.
- There are many options to help minimize or prevent side effects.

The following side effects are common for patients receiving Solu-Medrol:

- Increased appetite
- Irritability
- Difficulty sleeping (insomnia)
- Swelling in your ankles and feet (fluid retention)
- Nausea, take with food
- Heartburn
- Muscle weakness
- Impaired wound healing
- Increased blood sugar levels.

These are less common side effects for patients receiving Solu-Medrol:

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Mood swings
- Cataracts and bone thinning (with long-term use)

When to contact your doctor or health care provider:

Contact your health care provider ***immediately***, day or night, if you should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101° F or higher, chills (possible signs of infection)
- If you feel an irregular or fast heart beat, shortness of breath, or chest or jaw pain, seek emergency help and notify your healthcare provider.
- If you become suddenly confused

The following symptoms require medical attention, but are not emergency situations. Contact your health care provider ***within 24 hours*** of noticing any of the following:

- Extreme fatigue (unable to carry on self-care activities)
- Any unusual bleeding or bruising
- Black or tarry stools, or blood in your stools or urine
- Nausea (interferes with ability to eat and unrelieved with prescribed medications)
- Vomiting (vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24-hour period)
- Dizziness or lightheadedness, feeling faint.
- Persistent headache
- Severe hot flashes or mood swings
- Inability to sleep
- Severe bone pain
- Difficult or painful urination; increased urination, or severe thirst
- Changes in vision, blurred vision, eye pain, enlarged pupils, discharge
- Any new rashes or changes in your skin
- Swelling of the feet or ankles. Sudden weight gain (greater than 3 pounds a week)
- Swelling, redness and/or pain in one leg or arm and not the other

Always inform your health care provider if you experience any unusual symptoms.