



Treatment & medication

Dexamethasone

Other names: Decadron, Dexa.

What is it and how does it work?

A hormone that is also produced by the body itself. It has an anti-inflammatory effect and reduces hypersensitivity reactions. In certain cases, it can kill cancer cells and strengthen the effects of certain chemotherapies.

What does it look like and how is it given?

- A tablet or drink that is taken by mouth (oral).
- A clear liquid that is administered as an infusion into a vein (intravenous) (depending on the protocol).

Short-term side effects (within 24 hours)

A burning sensation in the stomach

Long-term side effects

- Increased appetite, weight gain and fluid retention, causing your child to develop a “full moon face” and/or a swollen abdomen
- Temporal behavioral changes, restlessness, irritation, aggressive behavior, occasionally insomnia and/or depression

- Elevated blood sugar levels and/or sugar in the urine
- Elevated blood pressure
- Reduced symptoms in case of infections
- Acne

Special instructions

- If your child vomits within 30 minutes after taking the medicine, please check prinsesmaximacentrum.nl/regimens under the heading 'Medicine' to see what you should do.
- Ensure that your child takes the dexamethasone during a meal, with water or milk. This helps to reduce the burning sensations in the stomach.
- The use of dexamethasone can mask infections.

Specifics

- The side effects will gradually disappear once the dexamethasone is slowly stopped.
- Check the website for more information on possible behavioral changes caused by dexamethasone.

This card lists the most common side effects and specifics of this medicine. If you want a complete list, please ask the doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.