

Decason® 6

Dexamethasone BP

Description

Dexamethasone (**Decason®**) is one of the synthetic analogues of cortisol. Its main clinical applications are as a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, for the prevention and treatment of cerebral oedema, in shock and as an antiemetic agent in cancer therapy.

Mode of action

The major pharmacological actions of dexamethasone can be divided into three groups:

- General effects on metabolism, water and electrolyte balance
- Negative feedback effects on the hypothalamus and pituitary
- Anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive effects.

Composition

Decason® 6 Tablet: Each tablet contains Dexamethasone BP 6 mg.

Decason® 6 Injection: Each ml ampoule contains Dexamethasone Phosphate 6 mg.

Indications

Shock, bronchial asthma, status asthmaticus, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, severe allergies, skin diseases, hyperpyrexia, bacteraemia, toxemia, other indications where glucocorticoid therapy is required.

Dosage & administration

Usual oral dosage range is 0.5-10 mg daily. Dexamethasone can be given parenterally at doses of 0.5-20 mg daily, either as a single IV/IM injection or by IV infusion. Child: 200-500 mcg/kg daily. Cerebral oedema: 10 mg IV initially, then 4 mg IM every 6 hours as required for 2-10 days. Large IV doses should be given slowly to reduce the possibility of cardiovascular collapse.

Contraindications

Systemic glucocorticoid is generally contraindicated in patient with Cushing's syndrome, gastrointestinal ulcers, systemic fungal infection and acute oral infection.

Side effects

Dexamethasone is generally well tolerated in standard low doses. Nausea, vomiting, increased appetite, obesity may occur. Higher doses may result behavioural and personality changes.

Use in pregnancy & lactation

Breast-feeding should be avoided at least for several hours after ingestion of the drug. The safety of the drug in pregnancy is not yet established. It should be used in pregnancy only if absolutely needed.

Precautions

Dexamethasone should be used with caution in patient with osteoporosis, cardiomyopathy, hypertension, renal insufficiency and latent tuberculosis.

Storage

Keep out of reach of children. Store in a dry place, below 25°C temperature and protected from light.

Packaging

Decason® 6 Tablet: Each carton contains 10X3 tablets in blister pack.

Decason® 6 Injection: Each carton contains 5X2 ampoules in blister pack.


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