Predisolone Injection can cause side effects in some people (read section 4 below). Some problems such as mood changes (feeling depressed or ‘high’) or stomach problems can happen straight away. If you feel unwell in any way, see your doctor straight away.

Some side effects only happen after weeks or months. These include weakness of arms and legs, or developing a rounder face (read section 4 for more information).

If you take this medicine for more than three weeks, you will get a blue tooth. You must always keep it with you and show it to any doctor or nurse treating you.

Keep away from people who have chickenpox or shingles. They could affect you severely. If you come into contact with chickenpox or shingles, see your doctor straight away.

Now read the rest of this leaflet. It includes other important information on the safe and effective use of this medicine that may be especially important for you.

Predisolone - benefit information

Prednisolone belongs to a group of medicines called steroids. Their full name is corticosteroids. These corticosteroids occur naturally in the body and help to maintain health and well-being. Boosting your body’s production of steroids such as prednisolone is an effective way to treat various illnesses involving inflammation in the body. Predisolone reduces this inflammation, which could otherwise go on making your condition worse. You must take this medicine regularly to get maximum benefit from it.

What is this leaflet

1. What Predisolone Injection is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are given Predisolone Injection
3. How to Use Predisolone Injection
4. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT PREDNISOLONE INJECTION IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

The name of your medicine is Predisolone Injection.

Prednisolone Injection contains the active ingredient prednisolone acetate which belongs to a group of medicines called corticosteroids or ‘steroids’. Steroids work by reducing inflammation and lowering the body’s immune response.

Prednisolone Injection is used to treat adults. This medicine is used to treat asthma, painful joints and tendons in conditions such as arthritis, tennis elbow and golfer’s elbow.

Prednisolone Injection can also be used to treat conditions such as asthma, severe allergic reactions, ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU ARE GIVEN PREDNISOLONE INJECTION

Predisolone Injection is not suitable for use in children.

You should not be given Predisolone Injection:

- if you are allergic to prednisolone or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) (allergic reactions include mild symptoms such as itching and/or rash. More severe symptoms include swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat with difficulty in swallowing or breathing).
- if you have had a previous sensitivity reaction to this medicine.
- if you have a viral infection such as measles, chickenpox or shingles or any other infection. Tell your doctor immediately if you have come into contact with anyone suffering with measles, chickenpox or shingles in the last three months.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or nurse before you are given Predisolone Injection.

• You should have a Steroid Card. Your doctor or pharmacist will have given you a Steroid Treatment Card with your prescription or medicine. You SHOULDN’T ALWAYS CARRY THIS CARD WITH YOU as it must be shown to any of the following persons:

- Doctor or Nurse - before having any surgery or emergency treatment or if any new treatment is prescribed.
- Pharmacist - before buying any medicine.

Optician - it is advisable to have regular eye tests.

Prednisolone Injection contains sodium and benzyl alcohol.

Sodium: This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol (23 mg) sodium per dose, i.e. essentially ‘sodium-free’.

Benzyl alcohol: Must not be given to premature babies or neonates. May cause toxic reactions and allergic reactions in infants and children up to 3 years old.

3. HOW PREDNISOLONE INJECTION IS GIVEN TO YOU

This medicine will be given to you by doctor or nurse. The doctor will decide upon the most suitable dose for you, but the recommended doses are:

Adults: For muscle (systemic) injections: Between 25 mg and 100 mg once or twice a week, depending on your condition.

Elderly: Your doctor will use the lowest dose for the shortest period of time to treat your condition. This is important to reduce the possible side effects.

Method of administration:

Prednisolone Injection will be injected into or around a joint in a way depending on the condition being treated.

If you think you have been given more Prednisolone Injection than you should have

Overdosing is unlikely. If it does happen the doctor will treat any symptoms that follow.

If you stop taking Prednisolone Injection

If treatment is stopped too quickly it can lead to severe problems of the adrenal gland, low blood pressure and death.

You may also experience ‘withdrawal symptoms’ which include fever, muscular pain, joint pain, joint runny nose, an eye infection (conjunctivitis), painful itchy skin bumps, loss of weight, increased production of saliva in the mouth with a dry feeling in the mouth and throat, re-appearance of your disease symptoms and swelling eye nerve.

Children may also experience swelling of the nerves in the eyes due to increase in pressure in and around the brain. The normal growth of infants, children and adolescents can slow down.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Steroids including prednisolone can cause severe mental health problems. These are common in both adults and children. They can affect about five in every 100 people taking medicines like prednisolone.

- Feeling depressed, including thinking about suicide.
- Feeling high (mania) having moods that go up and down.
- Feeling anxious, having problems sleeping, having difficulty in thinking or being confused and losing your memory.
- Feeling, seeing or hearing things which do not exist.
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- Difficulty in breathing or wheeziness.

Tell your doctor immediately. These may be signs of an allergic reaction.

If you are having injections into a joint, the most likely side effect is increased pain and swelling after the injection. This usually goes away after a few hours and you should rest the joint as much as possible.

If you are having muscle (systemic) injections the steroid will enter your system.

The side effects which can occur if steroids are given in high doses for a long time are:

- Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
- Generally feeling unwell
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Headache
- Changes in blood chemistry
- An increase in the number of white blood cells in the blood.
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