

METHYLPREDNISOLONE (SOLU-MEDROL)

Description

Methylprednisolone is a synthetic steroid that suppresses acute and chronic inflammation and may alter the immune response. In addition, it potentiates vascular smooth muscle relaxation by beta-adrenergic agonists and may alter airway hyperactivity.

Indications

- Anaphylaxis
 - Severe asthma
 - COPD
 - Suspected Addisonian Crisis (cardiovascular collapse in patients at risk for adrenal insufficiency)
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Contraindications

- Evidence of active GI bleed
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Adverse Reactions

Most adverse reactions are a result of long-term therapy and include:

- Gastrointestinal bleeding
 - Hypertension
 - Hyperglycemia
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Dosage and Administration**Adult:**

125 mg, IV/IO bolus, slowly, over 2 minutes

Pediatric:

2 mg/kg, IV/IO bolus, slowly, over 2 minutes to max dose of 125 mg

Special Considerations

- Must be reconstituted and used immediately.
- The effect of methylprednisolone is generally delayed for several hours.
- Methylprednisolone is not considered a first-line drug. Be sure to attend to the patient's primary treatment priorities (i.e. airway, ventilation, beta-agonist nebulizer) first. If primary treatment priorities have been completed and there is time while in route to the hospital, then methylprednisolone can be administered. Do not delay transport to administer this drug.