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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Diflucortolone

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat skin irritation.
- It is used to treat skin rashes.

## What do I need to tell the doctor **BEFORE** my child takes this drug?

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has any of these health problems: A viral skin infection like cold sores, chickenpox, or shingles; bacterial, fungal, or parasite skin infection; skin problems caused by TB (tuberculosis) or syphilis; or skin problems after getting a vaccine.
- If the skin has certain problems or the skin problem is in a certain area. Do not use this drug on skin with certain

problems like acne, itchy skin without swelling, or rosacea. Do not use on a rash around the mouth, around the anus, or on the genitals.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

### **What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?**

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Talk with your child's doctor before you use other drugs or products on your child's skin.
- Use care when putting on a large part of the skin or where there are open wounds. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not have your child use longer than you have been told by your child's doctor.
- This drug may raise the chance of infections. Call the doctor

right away if your child has signs of infection like fever, chills, sore throat, redness or swelling of the skin.

- This drug may affect growth in children and teens in some cases. They may need regular growth checks. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not give this drug to a child younger than 1 year of age.

### **If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:**

- Talk with the doctor if your child is pregnant, becomes pregnant, or is breast-feeding a baby. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to your child and the baby.

### **What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more

thirst, more hungry, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit.

- Skin changes (pimples, stretch marks, slow healing, hair growth).
- Very bad skin irritation.
- Bone pain.
- Dry skin.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.
- Hair loss.
- Round face.
- Very bad headache.
- Very upset stomach or throwing up.
- Skin wrinkles.
- Thinner or softer skin.
- Change in color of skin.
- A big weight gain.

### **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Burning.
- Itching.
- Skin irritation.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

### **How is this drug best given?**

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Do not give by mouth. Use on your child's skin only. Keep out of your child's mouth, nose, and eyes (may burn).
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Clean affected part before use. Make sure to dry well.
- Put a thin layer of gel on the affected part and rub in gently.
- Do not use coverings (bandages, dressings, make-up) unless told to do so by the doctor.
- Do not put on the face, underarms, or the groin area unless told to do so by the doctor.
- Do not stop using this drug without calling the doctor.

### **What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

- Put on a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child's next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not put on 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

### **How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

- Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

### **General drug facts**

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison

control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## **Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer**

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

## **Last Reviewed Date**

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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