

Summary of On-line Consumer Medicine Information for the Glucocorticoid Replacement Medications, Cortate and Hysone

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A paper on the persistence of inconsistent, incomplete and unsafe Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) for glucocorticoid replacement medications was submitted to the *Australian Prescriber* journal in May 2008. The authors withdrew the submission in August 2008 after a series of unusual editorial strategies to avoid publication. The following is a summary of on-line CMI sources for glucocorticoid replacement medications at this time.

Note:

1. CMI is mandatory for all prescription medications

Discussion paper, January 2007, Dept of Health and Ageing:
"Improving access to CMI and PI" Accessed 15.09.08

2. CMI should be consistent with PI

<http://www.asmi.com.au/industry/Consumer-Medicine-Information.aspx>

"All CMIs, regardless of schedule, must be based on and consistent with the Product Information (PI) and must not be promotional." Accessed 15.09.08

Using consumer medicine information (CMI). A guide for consumers and health professionals. Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. 03.00.

"CMI has to be consistent with the product information." Accessed 15.09.08

3. Hysone and Cortate have identical indications; PI and CMI should be similar.

Sources of CMI

CMI is On-line from at least three sources: MIMS-MyDr, NPS and RACGP sites.
(Google: Consumer Medicine Information).

Cortate:

There is currently no CMI for Cortate on the NPS or RACGP sites.

The Cortate CMI on the MIMS MyDr site perpetuates the advice "*Do not take Cortate if you have an uncontrolled infection*" in an entry dated 02.02

No source is given for this CMI entry.

PI (MIMS On-line) for Cortate does not contain advice to omit medication with infection, but contains no comment about the need to increase dosage for stress or infection.

Australian Medicines Handbook recommends doubling or trebling of dose during intercurrent illness.

Hysone:

Similar CMI for Hysone is presented in all three sources.

Until 11.07, CMI for Hysone contained the advice "*Do not take Hysone if you have any infections that are not being treated or are not responding to treatment*" That advice has been deleted without comment since 04.08.

CMI for Hysone contains no comment about the need to increase dosage for stress or infection. No sources are given for these CMI entries

At least since 2004, PI (MIMS Annual) for Hysone, has stated "*Dosage of hydrocortisone should be increased during periods of intercurrent illness or surgery to about 75 to 150 mg/day.*"

Australian Medicines Handbook recommends doubling or trebling of dose during intercurrent illness.

See also:

1. Paper submitted to *Australian Prescriber*.
Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) for glucocorticoid replacement medications one year on: unsafe errors persist. Stockigt JR, Torpy DJ, Fuller PJ, Colman PG, Topliss DJ.
Available on the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) website as a position statement:
URL: www.endocrinesociety.org.au/Glucocorticoids_unsafe_CMI_paper.pdf (PDF file, 37KB)
2. *Summary of interactions with Australian Prescriber.* Stockigt JR.
URL: www.endocrinesociety.org.au/Glucocorticoids_CMI_AusPrescriber_interactions.pdf (PDF file, 20KB)