Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate

**Drug Class:** Glucocorticoid

**Uses:**
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Acute gouty arthritis
- Acute rheumatic carditis
- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Atopic dermatitis
- Dermatologic diseases
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
- Synovitis of osteoarthritis
- Acute episode or exacerbation of:
  - Keratitis
  - Ulcerative colitis
  - Cerebral edema of diverse etiologies
  - Post-injection flare, following intra-articular use
- Synovitis of osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Acute leukemia of childhood
- Leukemias and lymphomas in adults
- Neoplastic diseases
- Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura in adults (I.V. only; I.M. administration is contraindicated).

**Contraindications:**
- Hypersensitivity to corticosteroids
- Active hyperacidity or peptic ulcer disease
- Leukemia, lymphomas, lymphoid disorders
- Mycotic infections
- Myasthenia gravis
- Myelitis, polyneuritis, optic neuritis
- Increased intracranial pressure or papilledema
- Severe depression
- Congestive heart failure
- Pseudoparalysis
- Acute epiglottitis
- Ulcerative colitis
- Chronic active hepatitis
- Active peptic ulcer disease
- History or presence of psychotic episodes

**Warnings:**
- Use with caution in:
  - Edematous states (e.g., cardiac, hepatic, renal, hypothyroidism)
  - Systemic infections
  - Patients with intact skin
  - Psychiatric illness
  - Renal, hepatic disease
  - Hypothyroidism
  - Diabetes mellitus
- Use only when other measures are not adequate. Therapy should be continued only as long as symptoms indicate the need for it.

**Side Effects:**
- **Endocrine:**
  - Manifestations of latent diabetes mellitus
  - Decreased carbohydrate tolerance
  - Suppression of growth in children
  - Development of cushingoid state
  - Menstrual irregularities
  - Postmenopausal osteoporosis
  - Increased PRA and aldosterone levels
  - Sodium and water retention
  - Potassium loss
  - Hyperglycemia
  - Hypertriglyceridemia
  - Hypercholesterolemia
- **Cardiovascular:**
  - Angina
  - Arrhythmias
  - Cardiac infarction
  - Venous thrombotic occlusion
  - Hypertension
  - Myocardial infarction
  - Myocarditis
  - Myocardial necrosis
  - Embolic episodes
  - Arterial emboli
- **Respiratory:**
  - Asthma
  - Bronchitis
  - Emphysema
  - Pulmonary fibrosis
  - Pulmonary edema
- **Gastrointestinal:**
  - Ulcerative colitis
  - Ulcerative hepatitis
  - Pancreatitis
  - Gastritis
  - Gastric perforation
  - Peptic ulcer disease
  - Pancreatic necrosis
- **Psychiatric/CNS:**
  - Anxiety
  - Confusion
  - Depression
  - Drowsiness
  - Excitation
  - Hallucinations
  - Mania
  - Nervousness
  - Paranoia
  - Psychosis
  - Seizures
  - Sleep disturbances
- **Ophthalmologic:**
  - Decreased visual acuity
  - Glaucoma
  - Posterior subcapsular cataracts
  - capsular fibrosis
  - Retinal hemorrhages
  - Retinal detachment
  - Proliferative retinopathy
  - Episcleritis
  - Scleritis
  - Iris atrophy
  - Periarteritis nodosa
  - Retinal necrosis
  - Decreased visual field
  - Blindness
  - Stroke
- **Immunosuppressive:**
  - Neoplasms
  - Tuberculosis
  - Pathogens:
    - Herpes simplex
    - Pseudomonas aeruginosa
    - Staphylococcus aureus
    - Enterococcus faecalis
    - Escherichia coli
    - Staphylococcus epidermidis
    - Pseudomonas aeruginosa
    - Acinetobacter baumannii
    - Serratia marcescens
  - Mycobacterium tuberculosis
  - Humans with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

**Precautions:**
- Use in pregnancy only when clearly needed.
- Use in nursing mothers only if clearly needed.
- Use cautiously in:
  - Children
  - Patients under 65 years of age
  - Patients over 65 years of age
  - Patients with a history of depression
  - Patients with a history of ulcer disease
  - Patients with a history of hypertension

**Dosing:**
- **Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate:**
  - Doses may be titrated to individual patient needs.

**Adverse Effects:**
- **Acute:**
  - Hypokalemia
  - Hyperglycemia
  - Sodium retention
  - Water retention
  - Potassium loss
  - Hypertriglyceridemia
  - Hypercholesterolemia

**Interactions:**
- **General:**
  - Increased effects of catecholamines
  - Increased effects of anticoagulants
  - Increased effects of antihypertensives
  - Increased effects of hypoglycemic agents
  - Increased effects of live vaccines
  - Decreased effects of antidiabetic agents
  - Decreased effects of antihypertensives
  - Decreased effects of anticoagulants
  - Decreased effects of antidiabetic agents

**Preparation:**
- **Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate:**
  - For intravenous use only.

**Description:**
- Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Injection is a sterile solution of dexamethasone sodium phosphate in water for injection.

**Storage:**
- Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].
- Sensitive to heat. Do not autoclave.
- Protect from freezing.

**Preparation and Administration:**
- **Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate:**
  - For intramuscular, intra-articular, and subcutaneous use.
  - For solution preparation, use USP distilled water for injection.
  - For parenteral administration:
    - Do not mix with other drugs.
    - Use only if solution is clear and colorless.
    - Use as soon as prepared.
    - Discard any unused portion.
    - Do not shake.

**Injection Sites:**
- **Intramuscular (I.M.):**
  - Gluteus maximus
  - Biceps
  - Triceps
  - Deltoid

**Subcutaneous Injection:**
- **I.V. Administration:**
  - Central venous line
  - Peripheral veins
- **I.M. Administration:**
  - Gluteus maximus
  - Biceps
  - Triceps
  - Deltoid

**Intra-articular Administration:**
- **I.V. Administration:**
  - Central venous line
  - Peripheral veins
- **I.M. Administration:**
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**Intralesional Injection:**
- **I.V. Administration:**
  - Central venous line
  - Peripheral veins
- **I.M. Administration:**
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  - Biceps
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**Topical Administration:**
- **I.V. Administration:**
  - Central venous line
  - Peripheral veins
- **I.M. Administration:**
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  - Biceps
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**Route of Administration:**
- **I.V. Administration:**
  - Central venous line
  - Peripheral veins
- **I.M. Administration:**
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  - Biceps
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**Adverse Reactions:**
- **Local:**
  - Irritation at injection site

**Antidotes:**
- **Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate:**
  - No specific antidote available.

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