

Dosing and Administration Guide

Learn about dosing Cortrophin Gel—an ACTH injection treatment option for appropriate patients.

Cortrophin Gel is a prescription medicine that is injected subcutaneously or intramuscularly. It is indicated for:



- Acute exacerbations of multiple sclerosis
- Short-term administration as an adjunctive therapy during an acute episode or exacerbation in rheumatoid arthritis, including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; psoriatic arthritis; ankylosing spondylitis; and acute gouty arthritis
- Inducing a diuresis or remission of proteinuria due to nephrotic syndrome without uremia of the idiopathic type or that due to lupus erythematosus

Find tools and resources for your patients at [Cortrophin.com](https://www.cortrophin.com).

ACTH=adrenocorticotropin hormone.

Important Safety Information

Contraindications

- Cortrophin Gel is contraindicated for intravenous administration.
- Cortrophin Gel is contraindicated in patients who have any of the following conditions: scleroderma; osteoporosis; systemic fungal infections; ocular herpes simplex; recent surgery; history of or the presence of a peptic ulcer; congestive heart failure; hypertension; primary adrenocortical insufficiency; adrenocortical hyperfunction; or sensitivity to proteins derived from porcine sources.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#).

Warnings and Precautions

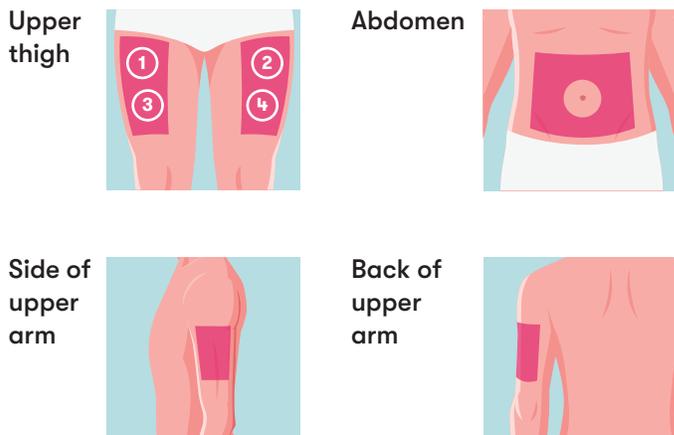
- **Infections:** Corticotropin therapy may increase susceptibility to infections and may mask the symptoms of infections.
- **Adrenal insufficiency:** Prolonged corticotropin therapy can increase the potential for adrenal insufficiency after withdrawal of the medication. Adrenal insufficiency may be minimized by gradually reducing the corticotropin dosage. Hormone therapy should be reinstated if stressful situations arise during discontinuation.

Dosing and administering treatment

Cortrophin Gel contains 80 units per mL that can be administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly

Dosing and frequency should be individualized according to medical condition, severity of the disease, and initial response of the patient. There are multiple injection sites appropriate for each method.^{1,2}

Subcutaneous injection areas¹



Intramuscular injection areas²



Patients may inject into the same area multiple times a week, but they must rotate the injection site in that area each time, keeping at least 1 inch between sites.^{1,2}

Important Safety Information (continued)

Warnings and Precautions (continued)

- **Elevated blood pressure, salt and water retention, and hypokalemia:** Corticotropin can cause elevation of blood pressure, salt and water retention, and increased excretion of potassium or calcium.
- **Masking symptoms of other diseases:** Corticotropin may only suppress signs and symptoms of chronic disease without altering the natural course of disease.
- **Psychiatric reactions:** Psychic derangements may appear when corticotropin is used, ranging from euphoria, insomnia, mood swings, personality changes, and depression to psychosis. Existing conditions may be aggravated.
- **Ophthalmic reactions:** Prolonged use of corticotropin may produce posterior subcapsular cataracts and glaucoma with possible damage to the optic nerves.
- **Immunogenicity potential:** Prolonged administration of Cortrophin Gel may increase the risk of hypersensitivity reactions. Neutralizing antibodies with chronic administration may lead to loss of endogenous ACTH and Cortrophin Gel activity.
- **Vaccination:** Patients should not be vaccinated against smallpox while on corticotropin therapy. Other immunizations should be undertaken with caution due to possible neurologic complications and lack of antibody response.
- **Use in patients with hypothyroidism and cirrhosis:** There is an enhanced effect in patients with hypothyroidism and in those with cirrhosis.
- **Use in patients with latent tuberculosis or tuberculin reactivity:** Closely observe for reactivation of the disease.
- **Comorbid diseases:** Corticotropin should be used with caution in patients with diabetes, abscess, pyogenic infections, diverticulitis, renal insufficiency, and myasthenia gravis.

The recommended dose and dosing frequency will vary by condition

Purified Cortrophin® Gel
repository corticotropin injection USP 80U/mL

Cortrophin Gel is a prescription medicine that is injected subcutaneously or intramuscularly. It is indicated for:



Neurology

Acute exacerbations of multiple sclerosis:

- The recommended daily intramuscular dosage is 80-120 U/mL for 2-3 weeks



Rheumatology

Short-term administration as an adjunctive therapy during an acute episode or exacerbation in rheumatoid arthritis, including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; psoriatic arthritis; and ankylosing spondylitis^{3,4}:

- The recommended dosage is 40-80 U/mL every 24-72 hours, per evidence-based drug compendia*

Short-term administration as an adjunctive therapy during an acute episode or exacerbation in acute gouty arthritis^{3,4}:

- The recommended dosage is 25-40 U/mL subcutaneously and repeat as indicated, per evidence-based drug compendia*



Nephrology

Inducing a diuresis or remission of proteinuria due to nephrotic syndrome without uremia of the idiopathic type or that due to lupus erythematosus^{3,4}:

- The recommended dosage is 40-80 U/mL every 24-72 hours, per evidence-based drug compendia*



Ophthalmology & Pulmonology

Severe acute and chronic allergic and inflammatory conditions affecting the eye and its adnexa, such as allergic conjunctivitis, keratitis, iritis and iridocyclitis, diffuse posterior uveitis and choroiditis, optic neuritis, chorioretinitis, and anterior segment inflammation^{3,4}:

- The recommended dosage is 40-80 U/mL every 24-72 hours, per evidence-based drug compendia*

Symptomatic Sarcoidosis^{3,4}:

- The recommended dosage is 40-80 U/mL every 24-72 hours, per evidence-based drug compendia*

*Dosage and schedule per the Wolters Kluwer Lexi-Drugs® and the Truven Health Analytics Micromedex DRUGDEX®, which are evidence-based drug compendia recommended by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Please monitor your patients for side effects if Cortrophin Gel is administered more than 40 units daily, because chronic administration of more than 40 units daily may be associated with uncontrollable adverse effects.

Standard tests for verification of adrenal responsiveness to corticotropin may utilize as much as 80 units as a single injection or one or more injections of a lesser dosage. Verification tests should be performed prior to treatment with corticotropins. The test should utilize the route(s) of administration proposed for treatment. Following verification, dosage should be individualized according to the disease under treatment and the general medical condition of each patient.

Important Safety Information (continued)

Warnings and Precautions (continued)

- **Growth and development:** Carefully observe growth and development of infants and children on prolonged corticotropin therapy.

- **Acute gouty arthritis:** Treatment of acute gouty arthritis should be limited to a few days. Conventional concomitant therapy should be administered during corticotropin treatment and for several days after it is stopped.

Please see full **Prescribing Information**.



A dedicated support program for you and your patients

The Cortrophin In Your Corner program* can provide your patients with ongoing support and educational information throughout their treatment with Cortrophin Gel.



If you have questions, call

1-800-805-5258

Monday–Friday, 8 AM–8 PM ET

Visit [CortrophinInYourCorner.com](https://www.CortrophinInYourCorner.com) for more information

*Not all patients will be eligible for all services offered by Cortrophin In Your Corner.

Important Safety Information (continued)

Warnings and Precautions (continued)

- **Drug interactions:** Aspirin should be used cautiously with corticotropin in hypoprothrombinemia.
- **Pregnancy:** Since fetal abnormalities have been observed in animals, Cortrophin Gel (repository corticotropin injection USP) should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions for Cortrophin Gel include fluid or sodium retention; muscle weakness; osteoporosis; peptic ulcer with possible perforation and hemorrhage; injection site reactions; impaired wound healing; hypertension; convulsions; headache; development of Cushingoid state; suppression of growth in children; and weight gain.

These are not all the adverse reactions reported with Cortrophin Gel.

Indications

Cortrophin Gel is a prescription medicine that is injected subcutaneously or intramuscularly. It is indicated for:

- Short-term administration as an adjunctive therapy during an acute episode or exacerbation in rheumatoid arthritis, including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; psoriatic arthritis; ankylosing spondylitis; and acute gouty arthritis.
- Exacerbations or as maintenance therapy in select cases of systemic lupus erythematosus and systemic dermatomyositis (polymyositis).
- Severe erythema multiforme (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) and severe psoriasis.
- Atopic dermatitis and serum sickness.
- Severe acute and chronic allergic and inflammatory conditions affecting the eye and its adnexa, such as allergic conjunctivitis, keratitis, iritis and iridocyclitis, diffuse posterior uveitis and choroiditis, optic neuritis, chorioretinitis, and anterior segment inflammation.
- Symptomatic sarcoidosis.
- Inducing a diuresis or remission of proteinuria due to nephrotic syndrome without uremia of the idiopathic type or that due to lupus erythematosus.
- Acute exacerbations of multiple sclerosis.

Please see full [Prescribing Information](#).

References: 1. Johns Hopkins Arthritis Center. Patient Corner. How to give a subcutaneous injection. Accessed November 30, 2021.

<https://www.hopkinsarthritis.org/patient-corner/how-to-give-a-subcutaneous-injection>. 2. Ogston-Tuck S. Intramuscular injection technique: an evidence-based approach. *Nurs Stand*. 2014;29(4):52-59. 3. Corticotropin (Lexi-Drugs). Updated December 3, 2021. Accessed December 3, 2021. <https://online.lexi.com>. 4. Corticotropin. DRUGDEX Evaluations. Drug details–MICROMEDEX. Updated March 10, 2023. Accessed October 12, 2021. <https://www.micromedexsolutions.com>.



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