PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

[Pr]**PRED FORTE®**

Prednisolone acetate ophthalmic suspension

Suspension, 1% w/v, for ophthalmic use

Allergan Standard

Corticosteroid

(ATC Code: S01BA04)

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DEC 31, 1974

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RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

None at the time of the most recent authorization.	

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Sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of authorization are not listed.

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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS

PRED FORTE® (prednisolone acetate) is indicated for:

- the treatment of steroid-responsive inflammation of the palpebral and bulbar conjunctiva, cornea and anterior segment of the globe.

1.1 Pediatrics

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

1.2 Geriatrics

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness have been observed in elderly patients

2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

PRED FORTE is contraindicated in patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredient, or component of the container. For a complete listing, see 6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING.

PRED FORTE is contraindicated in patients with:

- Most viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, including superficial (or epithelial) herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia and varicella.
- Mycobacterial ocular infections, including tuberculosis of the eye.
- Fungal diseases of ocular structures.
- Acute purulent untreated infections of the eye, which like other diseases caused by microorganisms may be masked or enhanced by the presence of steroid.

4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

- Shake well before using. Apply 1 to 2 drops into the conjunctival sac two to four times daily. During the initial 24 to 48 hours, the dosing frequency may be safely increased if necessary. Care should be taken not to discontinue therapy prematurely.
- PRED FORTE should not be used for more than 10 days. See Potential Effects of Prolonged Use.

Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

4.4 Administration

The bottle must not be used if the tamper-proof seal on the bottle neck is broken before the first use.

4.5 Missed Dose

Patients should be instructed to instill the drops as soon as they remember, and then to return to their regular routine.

5 OVERDOSAGE

An ocular overdose of PRED FORTE can be flushed from the eye(s) with lukewarm water. Patients should be instructed not to apply any more PRED FORTE until it is time for their next scheduled dose.

Due to the low quantity of medicinal ingredient in a bottle of PRED FORTE, no additional toxic effects are expected with an acute ocular overdose of this product or in the event of accidental ingestion of the contents of one bottle.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Ophthalmic	suspension, 1% w/v	benzalkonium chloride 0.004% w/v, boric acid, edetate disodium, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, polysorbate 80, purified water, sodium bisulphite, sodium chloride, sodium citrate dihydrate

PRED FORTE is supplied sterile in low density, opaque, polyethylene bottle with polyethylene controlled delivery dropper plug and cap, containing 5 and 10 mL.

7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

PRED FORTE contains sodium bisulphite, a sulphite that may cause allergic-type reactions including anaphylactic symptoms and life-threatening or less severe asthmatic episodes in certain susceptible people. The overall prevalence of sulphite sensitivity in the general population is unknown and probably low. Sulphite sensitivity is seen more frequently in asthmatic than in nonasthmatic people.

Driving and Operating Machinery

Upon instillation, patients may experience transient blurred vision which may impair the ability to drive or use machinery. If affected, patients should not drive or use machinery until their vision has cleared.

Ophthalmologic

Use with Contact Lenses:

The preservative in PRED FORTE, benzalkonium chloride, may be absorbed by and cause discoloration of soft contact lenses. Patients wearing soft contact lenses should be instructed to remove contact lenses prior to administration of the solution and wait at least 15 minutes after instilling PRED FORTE before reinserting soft contact lenses.

Potential for Eye Injury or Contamination:

To prevent eye injury or contamination, care should be taken to avoid touching the bottle tip to the eye or to any other surface. The use of the bottle by more than one person may spread infection. Bottle should be tightly closed when not in use.

Visual Disturbance:

Visual disturbance may be reported with systemic and topical corticosteroid use. If a patient presents with symptoms such as blurred vision or other visual disturbances, consider evaluating for possible causes which may include cataract, glaucoma or rare diseases such as central serous chorioretinopathy (CSCR) which have been reported after use of systemic and topical corticosteroids.

Potential Effects of Prolonged Use:

Prolonged use of ophthalmic corticosteroids may increase intraocular pressure in susceptible individuals, resulting in glaucoma, with damage to the optic nerve, defects in the visual acuity and fields of vision. Steroids should be used with caution in the presence of glaucoma; intraocular pressure be checked frequently.

Prolonged use may result in posterior subcapsular cataract formation.

The possibility of adrenal suppression should be considered with prolonged, frequent, use of high dose ophthalmic steroids.

Eye drops containing corticosteroids should not be used for more than 10 days except under strict ophthalmic supervision with regular checks for intraocular pressure.

Corneal and Scleral Thinning:

Use of ophthalmic corticosteroids in the presence of thin corneal or scleral tissue may lead to perforation.

Masking Acute Purulent Infections:

Acute untreated infection of the eye may be masked, or activity enhanced by the presence of steroid medication.

Secondary Ocular Infections:

Prolonged use may also suppress the host immune response and thus increase the hazard of secondary ocular infections.

As fungal infections of the cornea have been reported are particularly prone to develop coincidentally with long-term local steroid applications, fungal invasion may be suspected in any persistent corneal ulceration where a steroid has been used or is in use. Fungal cultures should be taken when appropriate.

Use of intraocular steroids may prolong the course and may exacerbate the severity of many viral infections of the eye (including herpes simples). Use of a corticosteroid medication in the treatment of patients with a history of herpes simplex requires great caution; frequent mandatory slit lamp microscopy is recommended.

Delayed Healing and Bleb Formation:

The use of steroids after cataract surgery may delay healing and increase the incidence of bleb formation.

7.1 Special Populations

7.1.1 Pregnant Women

While it is unlikely that ophthalmic administration of prednisolone acetate will result in significant systemic exposures to the drug, administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals has been associated with abnormalities of fetal development. The safety of intensive or protracted use of ophthalmic steroids during pregnancy has not been established. Therefore, this product should be used with caution during pregnancy only if the potential benefit outweighs the potential risk to the fetus.

7.1.2 Breast-feeding

It is not known whether ophthalmic administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in breast milk. Therefore, caution should be exercised when PRED FORTE is administered to nursing women.

7.1.3 Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

7.1.4 Geriatrics

No overall differences in safety or effectiveness have been observed in elderly patients.

8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

Increased intraocular pressure, with optic nerve damage and defects in the visual fields.

Also posterior subcapsular cataract formation, secondary ocular infections from fungi or viruses liberated from ocular tissues, perforation of the globe when used in conditions where there is thinning of the cornea or sclera, and delayed wound healing.

Systemic side effects may occur with extensive use of steroids.

8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

8.3 Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

8.4 Abnormal Laboratory Findings: Hematologic, Clinical Chemistry and Other Quantitative Data

Clinical Trial Findings

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post approval use of PRED FORTE.

Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Eye disorders: Cataract subcapsular, Eye irritation, Eye Pain, Eye penetration (scleral or corneal perforation), Foreign body sensation, Intraocular pressure increased, Mydriasis, Ocular hyperemia, Ocular infection (including bacterial, fungal, and viral infections), Vision blurred/Visual disturbance

Gastrointestinal disorders: Dysgeusia

Immune system disorders: Hypersensitivity, Urticaria

Nervous system disorders: Headache

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Pruritus, Rash

9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

9.3 Drug-Behavioural Interactions

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

Interactions with other drugs have not been established.

Although the systemic exposure is expected to be low with ophthalmic corticosteroid administration, co-treatment with CYP3A inhibitors such as HIV drugs, clarithromycin, erythromycin, ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole, aprepitant, diltiazem and verapamil, may increase the risk of systemic corticosteroid-related side-effects.

9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established.

9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory texts have not been established.

10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

10.1 Mechanism of Action

PRED FORTE is a glucocorticoid that, on the basis of weight, has 3 to 5 times the anti-inflammatory potency of hydrocortisone. Glucocorticoids inhibit the edema, fibrin deposition, capillary dilatation and

phagocytic migration of the acute inflammatory response as well as capillary proliferation, deposition of collagen and scar formation.

10.2 Pharmacodynamics

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

10.3 Pharmacokinetics

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

PRED FORTE should be stored at 15 to 25°C. Protect from freezing. Store in an upright position.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Not applicable.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

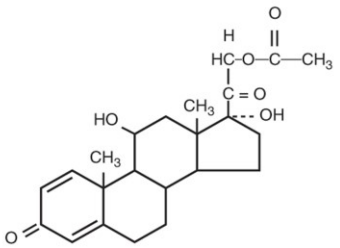
Drug Substance

Proper name: prednisolone acetate ophthalmic suspension, USP

Chemical name: 11ß,17α, 21-trihydroxypregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione 21-acetate

Molecular formula and molecular mass: $C_{23}H_{30}O_6$ and 402.48 g/mol

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: White to practically white crystalline powder.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

14.1 Clinical Trials by Indication

The data on which the product was originally approved is not available.

15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

General Toxicology: Following a single 30-µL ocular topical dose of 1% prednisolone acetate suspension into rabbit eyes, prednisolone acetate was rapidly absorbed into aqueous humor, vitreous humor, and plasma, with peak aqueous humor concentrations (C_{max}) occurring within 1 hour. In aqueous humor and vitreous humor, prednisolone acetate was extensively converted into prednisolone and in plasma to prednisolone and prednisone. The prednisolone concentrations in vitreous humor were much lower than those in aqueous humor. There was minimal absorption into the contralateral (undosed) eye following administration of 1% prednisolone acetate suspension.

In rabbit eyes, no toxic effects were observed after application of approximately 6 mg prednisolone acetate per day over 20 days as a 1% suspension. Also, no toxic effects were observed after a single oral administration of 500 mg/kg in rats.

No long-term animal studies have been performed to evaluate carcinogenic or mutagenic potential or whether PRED FORTE affects fertility in males or females.

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

PrPRED FORTE®

Prednisolone acetate ophthalmic suspension

Read this carefully before you start taking **PRED FORTE** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **PRED FORTE**.

What is PRED FORTE used for?

- PRED FORTE is used to treat inflammation (swelling) of several different parts of the eye.

How does PRED FORTE work?

PRED FORTE is a type of corticosteroid medicine that treats inflammation. It works by reducing the swelling, irritation, burning, redness and other symptoms seen with eye inflammation.

What are the ingredients in PRED FORTE?

Medicinal ingredient: prednisolone acetate

Non-medicinal ingredients: benzalkonium chloride, boric acid, edetate disodium, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, polysorbate 80, purified water, sodium bisulphite, sodium chloride, sodium citrate dihydrate

PRED FORTE comes in the following dosage forms:

Ophthalmic suspension, 1% w/v

Do not use PRED FORTE if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to prednisolone acetate, any other corticosteroids or any of the other ingredients in PRED FORTE (see section **What are the ingredients in PRED FORTE?**).
- you have a viral infection of the eye such as; herpes, vaccinia or chickenpox.
- you have a mycobacterial infection of the eye such as; tuberculosis.
- you have a fungal infection of the eye.
- you have any infection of the eye that causes pus.

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take PRED FORTE. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed
- have asthma
- have glaucoma (increased pressure in your eye)
- have recently had cataract surgery
- have a history of herpes infection in your eye
- have any other eye conditions

Other warnings you should know about:

Use with contact lenses

- PRED FORTE contains a preservative called benzalkonium chloride which may discolor soft contact lenses. If you wear contact lenses, remove them before using PRED FORTE. Wait 15 minutes after using the drops before you put your lenses back in.

Serious allergic reactions

- PRED FORTE contains sodium bisulphite, a sulphite that may cause a serious allergic reaction, that can be life-threatening. If you have asthma you may be more likely to have this type of allergic reaction.
- While you are using PRED FORTE if you develop a rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat or have difficulty breathing or swallowing stop using PRED FORTE and seek immediate medical help.

Driving and using machines

- Using PRED FORTE may temporarily blur your vision. Do not drive or use machines until your vision has cleared.

Eye and vision problems

- Using corticosteroids, like PRED FORTE, may cause eye and vision problems, such as blurred vision, vision loss, increased pressure in your eye (glaucoma), cataracts and other serious conditions. Eye drops containing corticosteroids, like PRED FORTE, should not be used for more than 10 days to reduce the risk of eye and vision problems. If you notice any new eye or vision problems while you are using PRED FORTE talk to your healthcare professional immediately.

Other effects of corticosteroids

- Using corticosteroids, like PRED FORTE, can affect your how your body handles infections. Infections caused by bacteria, viruses or fungus can be hidden or can get worse when using PRED FORTE. Your body's ability to fight infection can also be reduced making you more likely to get infections in the eye.
- If you notice any symptoms of infection, such as eye swelling and redness that is not getting better, eye discharge, fever and chills or you have extreme fatigue talk to your healthcare professional immediately.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with PRED FORTE:

- medicines used to treat HIV infection
- antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections such as; clarithromycin, erythromycin
- antifungals used to treat fungal infections such as; ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole
- aprepitant, a medicine used to treat nausea and vomiting
- medicine used to treat high blood pressure and other heart problems such as; diltiazem, verapamil

How to take PRED FORTE:

- Always use PRED FORTE exactly as your healthcare professional has instructed you. Do not stop using PRED FORTE or change your dose without talking to your healthcare professional.
- Shake the bottle well before using.
- Do not use the bottle if the tamper-proof seal on the bottle neck is broken before you first use it.
- To help prevent infections, do not let the tip of the bottle touch your eye or anything else. Put the cap back on and close the bottle immediately after you have used it.

Follow these steps to use PRED FORTE properly:

- Wash your hands. Tilt your head back and look at the ceiling. (See Illustration 1)
- Gently pull down the lower eyelid to create a small pocket. (See Illustration 2)
- Turn the bottle upside down and squeeze it gently to release one drop into the eyelid pocket. If a drop misses your eye, try again. (See Illustration 3)
- Let go of the lower lid and close your eye for 30 seconds. (See Illustration 4)

- Repeat steps 1 – 4 in the other eye if both eyes need treatment.

Usual dose:

Apply 1 to 2 drops in the affected eye(s) two to four times daily.

Overdose:

An overdose of PRED FORTE in the eye can be washed out with warm water. Do not use more PRED FORTE until it is time for your next dose.

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much PRED FORTE, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you forget to apply your eye drops at your normal time, apply them as soon as you remember. Then go back to the original schedule as directed by your healthcare professional. Don't try to catch up on missed drops by applying more than one dose at a time.

What are possible side effects from using PRED FORTE?

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking PRED FORTE. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- blurred vision
- change in taste
- eye irritation, eye pain
- feeling like there is something in your eye
- headache
- large (dilated) pupils
- rash, itching
- slow wound healing

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	**Talk to your healthcare professional**		**Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help**
	Only if severe	**In all cases**	
UNKNOWN			
Allergic reaction: difficulty breathing or swallowing, hives, rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat			√
Glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye)**:** blurred vision, eye redness, halos around lights, loss of vision, nausea, severe eye pain, vomiting			√
Eye infection (bacterial, viral or fungal)**:** itching, pain, redness, sensitivity to bright light, swelling, tearing, yellow discharge or crusts around the eye		√	
Scleral thinning or perforation (tear in the eye)**:** blurry vision, decreased vision, excessive tearing, redness, sensitivity to light		√	
Cataracts: clouded, blurry or dim vision, fading or yellowing of colours, trouble seeing at night		√	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting Side Effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada.html) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

PRED FORTE should be stored in an upright position, at 15 to 25°C. Protect from freezing.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about PRED FORTE:

- Talk to your healthcare professional.
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website: (www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html) the manufacturer's website www.allergan.ca., or by calling 1-800-668-6424.

This leaflet was prepared by Allergan Inc.

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