Patient leaflet in accordance with the Pharmacists' Regulations (Preparations) - 1986
This medicine is dispensed with a doctor's prescription only

Depo Medrol® 40 mg/ml
Suspension for injection

Each 1 ml of solution for injection contains:
methylprednisolone acetate 40 mg

Inactive ingredients and allergens: See section 2 under 'Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients' and section 6 "Further information".

Read the entire leaflet carefully before using this medicine. This leaflet contains concise information about this medicine. If you have any further questions, consult your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if it seems to you that their medical condition is similar to yours.

1. WHAT IS THIS MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?

For the treatment of medical conditions responsive to steroid injection therapy.

Therapeutic group: injectable corticosteroids

Corticosteroids are produced naturally in the body and are important for many body functions.

The medicine is intended for intramuscular (I.M.), intra-articular, intra-lesional, periarticular administration, intrarectal instillation, intrabursal administration or administration into soft tissues.

2. BEFORE USING THIS MEDICINE

Do not use this medicine if:

- You think you have ever suffered from an **allergic** reaction, or any other reaction after receiving Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml or any other medicine containing a corticosteroid or any of the other ingredients in this medicine (see section 6). An allergic reaction may cause a skin rash or redness, swelling of the face or lips or shortness of breath.
- You get a **rash**, or another symptom of an infection.
- You have recently had, or are about to have any **vaccination**.

Contact your doctor immediately if one or more of the above applies to you.

Do not inject this medicine:

- into the **Achilles tendon** (which is located behind the ankle joint), or
- directly into **a vein (intravenous)**, the spinal cord (intrathecal), the outer covering of the brain (extradural), into the nostrils (intranasal), into the eye (intraocular) or into the deltoid muscle.

Special warnings regarding use of the medicine

Before treatment with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml, tell your doctor if any of the following conditions apply to you:

- **Acute adrenal insufficiency** (when the body cannot produce enough corticosteroid due to problems with the adrenal glands).

- **Acute pancreatitis** (inflammation of the pancreas).
- **Chickenpox, measles, shingles** or **herpes** in the eye. If you think you have been in contact with someone who has chickenpox, measles or herpes zoster and you have not already had these illnesses in the past, or if you are unsure whether you have had these illnesses in the past.
- Severe **depression** or **manic depression** (bipolar disorder). This includes having had depression before while taking steroid medicines like Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml, or having a family history of these illnesses.
- **Cushing's disease** (a condition caused by an excess of cortisol hormone in the body).
- **Diabetes** (or if there is a family history of diabetes).
- **Epilepsy, fits or seizures**.
- **Glaucoma** (increased pressure in the eye) or if there is a family history of glaucoma.
- You experience **blurred vision or other visual disturbances.**
- You have recently suffered from a **heart attack**.
- **Heart problems**, including heart failure or infections.
- **Hypertension** (high blood pressure).
- **Hypotension** (low blood pressure).
- **Hypothyroidism** (an under-active thyroid).
- **Joint infection.**
- **Kidney** or **liver** disease.
- **Muscle problems** (pain or weakness) which happened while being treated with steroid medicines in the past.
- **Myasthenia gravis** (a condition causing tired and weak muscles).
- **Osteoporosis** (brittle bones).
- **Pancreatitis** (Inflammation of the pancreas which causes severe pain in the abdomen and back).
- **Peritonitis** (Inflammation of the thin lining (peritoneum) around the gut and stomach).
- **Pheochromocytoma** (a rare tumor of adrenal gland tissue. The adrenal glands are located above the kidneys).
- **Scleroderma** (also known as systemic sclerosis, an autoimmune disorder), because the risk of a serious complication called scleroderma renal crisis due to scleroderma may be increased. Signs of scleroderma renal crisis include increased blood pressure and decreased urine production.
- **Skin abscess**.
- **Stomach ulcer** or other serious gastric or intestinal problems.
- Unusual **stress**.
- **Thrombophlebitis** - vein problems due to thrombosis (blood clots in the veins) resulting in phlebitis (red, swollen and tender veins).
- You have **tuberculosis** or have suffered tuberculosis in the past.
- **Traumatic brain injury.**

Tumour lysis syndrome can occur after treatment of a fast-growing cancer, especially certain leukemias and lymphomas (cancers of the blood) or solid tumours. As the tumour cells die, they break apart and release their contents into the blood. This causes a change in certain chemicals in the blood, which may cause damage to organs, including the kidneys, heart and liver that may lead to muscle cramping, muscle weakness, confusion, irregular heartbeat, visual loss or visual disturbances, and shortness of breath. Your doctor will monitor you closely, especially if you are at high risk of developing tumour lysis syndrome.

You must notify your doctor or nurse before using this medicine if any of the conditions listed above applies to you.

Your doctor may have to monitor the treatment more carefully, change the dosage or give you another medicine.

Mental problems during treatment with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml
Mental health problems can occur during treatment with steroids like Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml (see section 4, side effects).

- These illnesses can be serious.
- They usually start within a few days or weeks of starting treatment with the medicine.
- They are more likely to happen at high doses.
- Most of these problems will disappear if the dose is reduced or treatment with the medicine is stopped. However, if the problems do occur, they might need treatment.

Inform your doctor if you (or someone else using this medicine) show any signs of mental problems. This is particularly important if you are depressed, or might be thinking about suicide. In a few cases, mental problems had occurred when doses were lowered or stopped. Please consult your doctor if you have further questions about using this medicine.

Children and adolescents
Corticosteroids can affect growth in children (see section 3).

Tests and follow up
If you require a test to be carried out by a doctor or in a hospital, it is important that you tell the doctor or nurse that you are treated with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml. This medicine can affect the results of some tests.

Drug interactions
If you are taking or have recently taken other medicines, including nonprescription medicines and dietary supplements, tell your doctor or pharmacist. Particularly if you are taking:

- **Acetazolamide** – a medicine used to treat glaucoma and epilepsy.
- **Aminoglutethimide and cyclophosphamide** – medicines used to treat cancer.
- **Antibacterials** (such as isoniazid, erythromycin, clarithromycin and troleandomycin).
- **Anticoagulants** - medicines used for blood "thinning" such as acenocoumarol, phenindione and warfarin.
- **Anticholinesterases** - medicines used to treat myasthenia gravis (severe muscle weakness) such as distigmine and neostigmine.
- **Antidiabetics** – medicines used to treat high blood sugar.
- **Antiemetics** (such as aprepitant and fosaprepitant).
- **Antivirals** (such as ritonavir, indinavir) and **pharmacokinetic enhancers** (such as cobicistat) used to treat HIV infection (AIDS).
- **Aspirin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs** (also called NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen used to treat mild to moderate pain.
- **Barbiturates, carbamazepine, phenytoin and primidone** – medicines used to treat epilepsy.
- **Carbenoxolone** - used for heartburn and acid indigestion.
- **Ciclosporin** - a medicine used to treat conditions such as severe rheumatoid arthritis, severe psoriasis or given following an organ or bone marrow transplant.
- **Digoxin** - a medicine used to treat heart failure and/or irregular heart beat.
- **Diltiazem** – a medicine used to treat heart problems or high blood pressure.
- **Ethinylestradiol and norethindrone** – oral contraceptives.
- **Ketoconazole or itraconazole** – medicines used to treat fungal infections.

- **Pancuronium and vecuronium** – or other medicines called neuromuscular blocking agents which are used in certain surgical procedures.
- Potassium depleting medicines – such as **diuretics**, **amphotericin B, xanthenes or beta 2 agonists** (e.g. medicines used to treat asthma).
- **Rifampicin and rifabutin** – antibiotics used to treat tuberculosis.
- **Tacrolimus** – a medicine given following an organ transplantation to prevent rejection of the transplanted organ.
- **Vaccines** - Tell your doctor or nurse if you have recently had, or are about to have any vaccination. You **must not** receive any "live attenuated" vaccine while using this medicine. Other vaccines may be less effective.

If you are taking regular medicines
If you are taking medicines for treatment of diabetes, high blood pressure or water retention (edema) tell your doctor, as he may need to adjust the dosage of the medicines used to treat these conditions.

Before you have any operation tell your doctor, dentist or anesthesiologist that you are treated with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml.

Using this medicine and food
Do not drink grapefruit juice while being treated with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility
If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine, as this medicine can slow the baby's growth. There is a risk associated with low birth weight of the baby; this risk can be reduced by using a lower dosage of this medicine.
Cases of cataracts have been observed in infants born to mothers treated with long-term corticosteroids during pregnancy.
If you are breastfeeding, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine, as small amounts of corticosteroid medicines may get into breast milk.
If you continue breastfeeding during the treatment, your baby will need additional tests to make sure that he is not being affected by your medicine.

Driving and using machines
Do not drive or operate dangerous machines while using this medicine if you experience undesirable effects, such as dizziness, vertigo, visual disturbances and fatigue, which are possible after treatment with corticosteroids.

Important information about some of this medicine's ingredients
Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per vial, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. HOW TO USE THIS MEDICINE?

Always use this preparation according to your doctor's instructions.

Check with the doctor or pharmacist if you are uncertain about the dosage and treatment regimen of the preparation.

If you are admitted to the hospital for any reason, always tell your doctor or nurse that you are using this medicine. You can also wear a bracelet or pendant (medical identification tag) to let the medical staff know that you are treated with a steroid medicine in case you are involved in an accident or become unconscious.
The dosage and treatment regimen will be determined by your doctor only. The recommended dosage will be adjusted to the medical condition, and the site and mode of administration.

Your doctor will decide on the site of injection, how much of the medicine and how many injections you will receive, depending on the condition you are being treated for and its

degree of severity. Your doctor will adjust for you the lowest dose for the shortest possible time to get effective relief of your symptoms.

Adults

Your doctor or nurse will tell you how many injections you will require for the condition you are being treated for, and when you will receive them.

Recommended doses:

Joints:

The usual dose for injections into the joint will depend on the size of the joint. Large joints (e.g. knee, ankle and shoulder) may require a dose of 20 – 80 mg (0.5 – 2 ml), medium sized joints (e.g. elbow or wrist) a dose of 10 – 40 mg (0.25 – 1 ml), and small joints (e.g. finger or toe joints) a dose of 4 – 10 mg (0.1 – 0.25 ml). Joint injections may be given once weekly over a period of several weeks, depending on how quickly you respond to treatment.

Bursitis, tendinitis and epicondylitis:

The usual dose is between 4 – 30 mg (0.1 – 0.75 ml). In most cases repeat injections will not be needed for bursitis and epicondylitis. Repeat injections may be necessary to treat long standing conditions.

Medical skin conditions:

The usual dose is between 20 – 60 mg (0.5 – 1.5 ml) *injected into the affected area or areas of the skin.*

Other medical conditions:

For other more general conditions may require a dose of 40 – 120 mg (1 – 3 ml) *of this medicine as an enema into the rectum or as an injection into a large muscle.*

Elderly

Treatment will normally be the same as for adults. However, your doctor may want to see you more often to check how the medicine affects you.

Children

Your doctor will prescribe the lowest dose that will be effective for your child.

Do not exceed the recommended dose.

If you have accidentally received a higher dosage

If you think you have received more injections than you should have received, contact your doctor immediately.

If a child has accidentally swallowed some medicine, immediately see a doctor or go to a hospital emergency room and bring the medicine package with you.

Adhere to the treatment as recommended by your doctor.

Even if your health improves, do not stop treatment with this medicine without consulting your doctor.

Stopping/reducing the dosage of Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml

Your doctor will decide when to stop the treatment.
You have to stop the treatment gradually if:

- you have received Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml for more than 3 weeks.
- you have received a high dosage of Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml, over 32 mg (0.8 ml) daily, even if it was administered only for 3 weeks or less.

- you have already received a course of corticosteroid tablets or injections in the last year.
- you have already had problems with adrenal glands (adrenocortical insufficiency) before starting the treatment.

You have to stop the treatment gradually to avoid **withdrawal symptoms**. These symptoms may include itchy skin, fever, muscle and joint pains, runny nose, sticky eyes, sweating and weight loss.
If the symptoms seem to return or get worse when the medicine's dosage is reduced, contact your doctor immediately.

Do not take medicines in the dark! Check the label and dose each time you take a medicine. Wear glasses if you need them.

If you have any further questions about using this medicine, consult your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. SIDE EFFECTS

As with any medicine, use of Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml may cause side effects in some users.
Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects; you may not experience any of them.
Your doctor has prescribed this medicine for you to treat your condition, which may worsen if not treated properly.

In certain medical conditions, medicines like Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml (steroids) should not be stopped abruptly. If you suffer from one or more of the following symptoms, contact your doctor immediately. Your doctor will decide whether you should continue receiving treatment with Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml.

- **Allergic reactions,** such as skin rash, swelling of the face or wheezing and difficulty breathing or dizziness. This type of side effect is rare, but may be severe.
- **Pancreatitis** (inflammation of the pancreas), abdominal pain spreading to the back, possibly accompanied by vomiting, shock and loss of consciousness.
- **Ulcers or bleeding ulcers,** symptoms of which are severe stomach pain which may go through to the back and could be associated with bleeding from the back passage, black or bloodstained stools and/or vomiting blood.
- **Infections**, this medicine can hide or change the signs and symptoms of certain infections, or reduce your resistance to infection, so that they are hard to diagnose at an early stage. Symptoms may include raised temperature and feeling unwell. Symptoms of a flare up of a previous tuberculosis infection can be coughing up blood or chest pain. In addition, this medicine may make you more likely to develop a severe infection.
- **Peritonitis,** an inflammation (irritation) of the peritoneum, the thin tissue that lines the inner wall of the abdominal cavity and covers most of the abdominal organs. The symptoms are severe abdominal pain or tenderness, the pain may worsen upon touching the abdomen or during body movement.
- **Pulmonary embolism** (a blood clot in the lung), the symptoms include sudden sharp chest pain, breathlessness and coughing up blood.
- **Raised pressure within the skull** of children (pseudotumor cerebri), symptoms of which are headaches with vomiting, lack of energy and drowsiness. This side effect usually occurs after the treatment is stopped.

- **Thrombophlebitis** (blood clots or thrombosis in a leg vein), symptoms of which include painful swollen, red and tender veins.

If you experience any of the following side effects, or if you experience any unusual effects not mentioned in this leaflet, contact your doctor immediately.

The following side effects may occur at unknown frequency (the frequency of these effects has not been established yet):

Heart and blood vessels

- High blood pressure, symptoms of which are headaches or generally feeling unwell.
- Problems with the pumping of your heart (heart failure), symptoms of which are swollen ankles, difficulty in breathing and palpitations (awareness of heartbeats) or irregular beating of the heart, irregular or very fast or slow pulse.
- Low blood pressure, the symptoms may include dizziness, fainting, lightheadedness, blurred vision, a rapid or irregular heartbeat (palpitations).
- Increase in white blood cells (leukocytosis).
- Increased clotting of the blood.
- Warmth and reddening of the skin (Flushing).

Balance of water and salts in the body

- Swelling and high blood pressure caused by increased levels of water and salt in the body.
- Cramps and spasms due to lack of potassium in the body. In rare cases this can lead to congestive heart failure (when the heart cannot function properly).

Digestive system

- Ulcers.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Thrush in the gullet (discomfort on swallowing).
- Indigestion.
- Diarrhea.
- Bloated stomach.
- Abdominal pain.
- Persistent hiccups, especially at high doses.

Ears

- A feeling of dizziness or spinning (vertigo).

Eyes

- Cataract (associated with reduced vision).
- Glaucoma (raised pressure within the eye, causing pain in the eyes and headaches).
- Swollen optic nerve (causing a condition called papilledema, and which may cause vision disturbances).
- Increased intraocular pressure with possible damage to the optic nerve (associated with reduced vision).
- Thinning of the clear part at the front of the eye (cornea) or of the white part of the eye (sclera).
- Worsening of viral or fungal eye infections.
- Protrusion of the eyeballs (exophthalmos).
- Blurred or distorted vision (due to disease of the retina and choroid membrane).

General disorders

- Poor wound healing.
- Irritability in children.

- Feeling tired or unwell.
- Skin reactions at the site of injection.
- Irritability in adults.

Hepatobiliary disorders

- Methylprednisolone can damage the liver, cases of hepatitis and increased liver enzymes have been reported.

Hormones and metabolic system

- Slowing of normal growth in infants, children and adolescents which may be permanent.
- Round or moon-shaped face (Cushingoid face).
- Diabetes or worsening of existing diabetes.
- Irregular or no periods in women.
- Increased appetite and weight gain.
- Abnormal localized or tumor-like accumulations of fat in the tissues.
- Prolonged therapy can lead to low levels of certain hormones, which can cause low blood pressure and dizziness. This effect may persist for months.
- The amount of certain enzymes (ALT, AST, ALP) that help the body digest medicines and other substances may be raised after treatment with a corticosteroid. The change is usually small and the enzyme levels return to normal after the medicine is cleared naturally from the body. You will not notice any symptoms, but if this happens, it will show up in a blood test.

Immune system

- Increased susceptibility to infections which can hide or change the results of skin tests, such as the test for tuberculosis.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

- Accumulation of fat tissue in certain parts of the body.
- Back pain or weakness (due to epidural lipomatosis, a rare disorder in which an abnormal amount of fat is deposited on or outside the lining of the spine).

Muscles, bones and joints

- Muscle weakness.
- Brittle bones (bones that break easily).
- Muscle wasting.
- Broken or fractured bones.
- Breakdown of bone due to poor blood flow, which causes pain in the hip.
- Joint pain.
- Torn muscle tendons causing pain and/or swelling.
- Muscle cramps or spasms.
- Swollen or painful joints due to infection.

Nervous system and mood disorders

Steroids including Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml can cause serious mental health problems. These are common in both adults and children. They can affect about 5 in 100 people using medicines like Depo Medrol 40 mg/ml.

- Feeling depressed, including thinking about suicide.
- Feeling high (mania) or moods that go up and down.
- Feeling anxious, having problems sleeping, difficulty in thinking or being confused and losing your memory.
- Feeling, seeing or hearing things which do not exist. Having strange and frightening thoughts, changing how you act or having feelings of being alone.

- Other nervous system side effects may include convulsions (seizures), amnesia (loss of memory), cognitive disorders (mental changes), dizziness and headache

Skin

- Acne.
- Bruising.
- Abscess, especially near injection sites.
- Thinning of skin, stretch marks.
- Small purple/red patches on the skin.
- Pale or darker patches on the skin, or raised patches of unusual color.
- Increased hair on the body and face (hirsutism).
- Rash, itching, hives.
- Increased sweating.

If you experience any side effect, if any side effect gets worse, or if you experience a side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult your doctor.

You can report side effects to the Ministry of Health by following the link' Reporting Side Effects of Drug Treatment' on the Ministry of Health home page (www.health.gov.il) which links to an online form for reporting side effects or by using the link: https://sideeffects.health.gov.il

5. HOW TO STORE THE MEDICINE?

- Prevent poisoning! This and any other medicine should be kept in a closed place, out of the reach and sight of children and/or infants to avoid poisoning. Do not induce vomiting unless explicitly instructed to do so by a doctor.
- Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) which is stated on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store below 25˚C. Do not freeze.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

In addition to the active ingredient, this medicine also contains:

Macrogol 3350, sodium chloride, myristyl-gamma-picolinium chloride, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, water for injection.

In addition, each 1 ml contains 8.7 mg sodium chloride.

What the medicine looks like and contents of the pack:
A glass vial containing 1, 2 or 5 ml of white suspension in a carton pack.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Registration holder and address: Pfizer PFE Pharmaceuticals Israel Ltd., 9 Shenkar St., Herzliya Pituach 46725

Registration number of the medicine in the National Drug Registry of the Ministry of Health: 024-49-21841

Revised in 06/2023 according to MOH guidelines.

The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO THE PHYSICIAN LEAFLET.

Posology and method of administration

Depo Medrol should not be mixed with any other suspending agent or solution. Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever suspension and container permit. Depo Medrol may be used by any of the following routes: intramuscular, intra-articular, periarticular, intrabursal, intralesional in intrarectal instillation and into the soft tissues. It must not be used by the intrathecal or intravenous routes.

Undesirable effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the minimum period (see special warnings and precautions).

Depo Medrol vials are intended for single dose use only.

Adults
Intramuscular – for sustained systemic effect: Allergic conditions (asthma). 80 – 120 mg (2 – 3 ml).

Dermatological conditions, 80 – 120 mg (1 – 3 ml).

Rheumatic disorders and collagen diseases (rheumatoid arthritis), 40 – 120 mg (1 – 3 ml) per week.

Dosage must be individualised and depends on the condition being treated and its severity.

The frequency of intramuscular injections should be determined by the duration of the clinical response.

On average the effect of a single 2 ml (80 mg) injection may be expected to last approximately two weeks.

Intra-articular: Rheumatoid arthritis, osteo-arthritis. The dose of Depo Medrol depends upon the size of the joint and the severity of the condition. Repeated injections, if needed, may be given at intervals of one to five or more weeks depending upon the degree of relief obtained from the initial injection. A suggested dosage guide is: large joint (knee, ankle, shoulder), 20 – 80 mg (0.5 – 2 ml); medium joint (elbow, wrist), 10 – 40 mg (0.25 – 1 ml); small joint (metacarpophalangeal, interphalangeal, sternoclavicular, acromioclavicular), 4 – 10 mg (0.1 – 0.25 ml).

Intrabursal: Subdeltoid bursitis, prepatellar bursitis, olecranon bursitis. For administration directly into bursae, 4 – 30 mg (0.1 – 0.75 ml). In most cases, repeat injections are not needed.

Intralesional: For administration directly into the lesion for local effect in dermatological conditions, 20 – 60 mg (0.5 – 1.5 ml). For large lesions, the dose may be distributed by repeated local injections of 20 – 40 mg (0.5 – 1 ml). One to four injections are usually

employed. Care should be taken to avoid injection of sufficient material to cause blanching, since this may be followed by a small slough.

Periarticular: Epicondylitis. Infiltrate 4 – 30 mg (0.1 – 0.75 ml) into the affected area.

Into the tendon sheath: Tenosynovitis, epicondylitis. For administration directly into the tendon sheath, 4 – 30 mg (0.1 – 0.75 ml). In recurrent or chronic conditions, repeat injections may be necessary.

Special precautions should be observed when administering Depo Medrol. Intramuscular injections should be made deeply into the gluteal muscles. The usual technique of aspirating prior to injection should be employed to avoid intravascular administration. Doses recommended for intramuscular injection must not be administered superficially or subcutaneously.

Intra-articular injections should be made using precise, anatomical localisation into the synovial space of the joint involved. The injection site for each joint is determined by that location where the synovial cavity is most superficial and most free of large vessels and nerves. Suitable sites for intra-articular injection are the knee, ankle, wrist, elbow, shoulder, phalangeal and hip joints. The spinal joints, unstable joints and those devoid of synovial space are not suitable. Treatment failures age most frequently the result of failure to enter the joint space. Intra-articular injections should be made with care as follows: ensure correct positioning of the needle into the synovial space and aspirate a few drops of joint fluid. The aspirating syringe should then be replaced by another containing Depo Medrol. To ensure position of the needle, synovial fluid should be aspirated and the injection made. After injection the joint is moved slightly to aid mixing of the synovial fluid and the suspension. Subsequent to therapy care should be taken for the patient not to overuse the joint in which benefit has been obtained. Negligence in this matter may permit an increase in joint deterioration that will more than offset the beneficial effects of the steroid.

Intrabursal injections should be made as follows: the area around the injection site is prepared in a sterile way and a wheal at the site made with 1 per cent procaine hydrochloride solution. A 20-24 gauge needle attached to a dry syringe is inserted into the bursa and the fluid aspirated. The needle is left in place and the aspirating syringe changed for a small syringe containing the desired dose. After injection, the needle is withdrawn and a small dressing applied. In the treatment of tenosynovitis care should be taken to inject Depo Medrol into the tendon sheath rather than into the substance of the tendon. Due to the absence of a true tendon sheath, the Achilles tendon should not be injected with Depo Medrol.

The usual sterile precautions should be observed with each injection.

<u>Paediatric population</u>
Dosage may be reduced for infants and children but should be governed more by the severity of the condition and response of the patient, than by age or size.

<u>Elderly patients</u>
When used according to instructions, there is no information to suggest that a change in dosage is warranted in the elderly. However, treatment of elderly patients, particularly if long-term, should be planned bearing in mind the more serious consequences of the common side-effects of corticosteroids in old age and close clinical supervision is required.

Incompatibilities

None stated.

Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Do not freeze. Depo Medrol should not be mixed with any other fluid.
Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.