



John Dempsey Hospital
The University of Connecticut Health Center
Department of Nursing
NICU/NBN/SCN

STEROIDS (Steer-oyds)

USE OF STEROIDS:

Steroid drugs are often used in premature infants who develop chronic lung disease. Chronic lung disease occurs frequently in small, pre-term infants who have breathing problems after birth. Steroids are used to help decrease inflammation of the lungs and stop further lung damage. Steroids may reduce the length of time babies need oxygen or a ventilator.

CALL THE DOCTOR IF:

1. Your baby vomits
2. Your baby becomes irritable or has trouble sleeping.
3. Your baby has an increase in appetite.
4. Your baby has bloody or black stools.
5. Your baby has a fever.
6. Your baby has swollen feet.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review the 2 sections titled "**Safety**" and "**How to Use the Medicine**" in your **General Instructions for Giving Your Baby's Oral Medicine** hand out.
2. It is best to give this medicine with formula or breast milk.
3. If you give the medicine every other day, and miss a dose, give the missed dose that same morning. If you remember the missed dose later in the day, skip the missed dose and give the dose the next morning and then go back to the regular schedule.