

More than 30 years ago the first report concerning the therapeutic use of glucocorticoids appeared. Even if the pediatrician is aware of the large number of clinical and experimental studies that have accumulated during the past three decades he is still faced with the uncertainties of corticosteroid therapy in children's diseases especially with regard to pharmacodynamic effects and pharmacokinetics. There is no doubt that these drugs have considerably reduced morbidity and mortality in children suffering from asthma, nephrosis, rheumatoid arthritis, leukemia, or other diseases, but in some cases they may do more harm than the underlying disease for which they are prescribed. Thus, in order to obtain optimum benefit with minimum risk, the advantages of glucocorticoid therapy should be carefully considered before embarking on a program, especially one of chronic high-dose administration.

2 General Pharmacology and Physiology The primary function of corticosteroids is protection from various stresses in everyday life and they are involved in our ability to fight diseases, overcome trauma and cope with emotional upsets. In the mammalian adrenal gland there is a central zone, derived from the ectodermal neural crest, which produces catecholamines. This is surrounded by a peripheral zone, the adrenal cortex, derived from the mesodermal coelomic epithelium, which synthesizes steroids. The fetal adrenal gland is already capable of synthesizing corticosteroids and by the middle trimester of pregnancy a two-way diaplacental transfer exists.

Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, Greek Sculpture A Collection of 16 Pictures of Greek Marbles with Introduction and Interpretation, The Link: Pearl Vampire Chronicles, Lamarckiens et Darwiniens (French Edition), The Geology of Australia, Dads Army, Volume 15: We Know Our Onions, People are Strange (Sanctuary Encores),

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