

# SIGNS OF TOO MUCH PREDNISONE/PREDNISOLONE (OR OTHER GLUCOCORTICOID)

ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT A SAFE REDUCTION PLAN

Excess thirst (polydypsia)

Excess urination (polyuria)

Increased hunger (polyphagia)

Panting

Weight gain/Obesity

Muscle loss/wasting & weakness

Loss of muscle on the head  
("Pred head")

Iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome  
(glucocorticoid excess)

Lethargy

General loss of energy

Hair loss or thinning

Dull and dry fur

Aggression

Guarding food

Nervousness and/or restlessness

Increased barking

Being easily startled

Decreased activity

Increased avoidance

Vomiting/Nausea

Diarrhea

Pancreatitis

Gastrointestinal ulceration

Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)

Elevated liver enzymes

Diabetes mellitus

Calcinosis cutis

Poor wound healing ability

Development or worsening  
of bacterial infections

Each dog is different. Many dogs with Addison's do very well on as little as 1 mg of Pred for a 100 lb/45 kg dog, as mentioned by Dr. Deborah Greco. She uses, "...a very low dose of Prednisone – the lowest dose I can possibly give."

Dr. Mark Peterson says, "I rarely, if ever, give a higher dose than 5-mg per day to ANY dog. The 5-mg dose is the average human maintenance dose, and we see very few dogs that weigh over 70 kg."

Sources for all of the above:

**ADDISON'S DISEASE: UNCOMMON OR UNDERDIAGNOSED?**

(<https://canineaddisons.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/NovartisRoundtableDiscussion.pdf>)

**Q & A: WHAT'S THE IDEAL PREDNISONE DOSE FOR DOGS WITH ADDISON'S DISEASE? - Dr. Mark Peterson**

(<https://endocrinevet.blogspot.com/2011/02/q-whats-ideal-prednisone-dose-for-dogs.html>)

<https://animalendocrine.blogspot.com/2013/08/how-to-adjust-glucocorticoid-dose-in.html>

[https://www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/2012/june/behavioral\\_changes\\_associated\\_with\\_glucocorticoid\\_use\\_in\\_dogs-25373](https://www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/2012/june/behavioral_changes_associated_with_glucocorticoid_use_in_dogs-25373)

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/steroid-treatment-long-term-effects-in-dogs>

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**(LARGER PRINT VERSION)**  
**SIGNS OF TOO MUCH PREDNISONE/PREDNISOLONE**  
**(OR OTHER GLUCOCORTICOID)**  
**ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT A SAFE REDUCTION PLAN**

<b>Excess thirst (polydypsia)</b>	<b>General loss of energy</b>	<b>Diarrhea</b>
<b>Excess urination (polyuria)</b>	<b>Hair loss or thinning</b>	<b>Pancreatitis</b>
<b>Increased hunger (polyphagia)</b>	<b>Dull and dry fur</b>	<b>Gastrointestinal ulceration</b>
<b>Panting</b>	<b>Aggression</b>	<b>Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)</b>
<b>Weight gain/Obesity</b>	<b>Guarding food</b>	<b>Elevated liver enzymes</b>
<b>Muscle loss/wasting &amp; weakness</b>	<b>Nervousness and/or restlessness</b>	<b>Diabetes mellitus</b>
<b>Loss of muscle on the head</b> <b>(“Pred head”)</b>	<b>Increased barking</b>	<b>Calcinosis cutis</b>
<b>Iatrogenic Cushing's syndrome</b> <b>(glucocorticoid excess)</b>	<b>Being easily startled</b>	<b>Poor wound healing ability</b>
<b>Lethargy</b>	<b>Decreased activity</b>	<b>Development or worsening of</b> <b>bacterial infections</b>
	<b>Increased avoidance</b>	
	<b>Vomiting/Nausea</b>	

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