

MEDICATION BIOEQUIVALENCY

Some words of explanation of bioequivalency from NADF's Medical Director, Dr. Margulies (reprinted from NADF News, Vol. 1, 2004):

“All of the hydrocortisone, cortisone acetate, prednisone and dexamethasone preparations out there are identical only in the amount of hormone in the pills. The absorption may vary because the different brands or generic versions may have slightly different binders, fillers, coatings, and densities. This creates variations in blood levels and biological potency. I have always been aware of clinical variations that patients have experienced when switching from one brand or generic to another. Basically, a new titration or adjustment in dosage is needed whenever a switch is made. Sometimes there is a need to increase or decrease the dose, and very often there is no need to adjust the dose.

The message for our members: be aware that a change in potency may occur with any brand switch and discuss any symptoms of glucocorticoid excess or deficiency with your doctor so proper adjustments in dosage are made.”



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reconfirmed on June 11, 2021