

Alternatives for Drug Shortages due to COVID-19

AZITHROMYCIN ALTERNATIVES*

FDA Labeled Indication	Alternative Choice for Azithromycin
COPD Exacerbation	clarithromycin
Otitis Media, Acute	trimethoprim, Ciprodex Otic
Pneumonia, Community Acquired	clarithromycin or doxycycline (base)
Skin & Skin Structure	clarithromycin or doxycycline (mono)
Pharyngitis	clarithromycin or erythromycin
Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Urethritis/Cervicitis Chancroid	minocycline doxycycline

*Based on FDA labeled indications adapted from Lexicomp 5/21/2020

FLUTICASONE ALTERNATIVES**

Drug	Low Dose	Medium Dose	High Dose
Beclomethasone dipropionate HFA (Qvar Redihaler®)	100-200	>200-400	>400
Budesonide DPI (Pulmicort® Flexhaler)	200-400	>400-800	>800
Ciclesonide HFA (Alvesco)	80-160	>160-320	>320
Fluticasone furoate DPI (Arnuity® Ellipta®)	100	-	200
Fluticasone propionate DPI (Flovent® Diskus)	100-250	>250-500	>500
Fluticasone propionate HFA (Flovent® HFA)	100-250	>250-500	>500
Mometasone furoate (Asmanex® HFA)	110-220	>220-440	>440

Based on *Estimated Clinical Comparability* of Low, Medium and High **daily doses of Inhaled Corticosteroids (adapted from GINA 2019 report)

Hydrocortisone Tablets***

Glucocorticoid	Approximate Oral Equivalent Dose	Duration of Action	Relative Anti-inflammatory Potency
Short Acting			
Cortisone	25mg	8-12 hours	0.8
Hydrocortisone	20mg	8-12 hours	1
Intermediate Acting			
MethylPREDNISolone	4mg	12-36 hours	5
PrednisoLONE	5mg	12-36 hours	4
PredniSONE	5mg	12-36 hours	4
Long Acting			
Dexamethasone	0.75mg	36-72 hours	25-30

When used for **mineralcorticoid effects**, hydrocortisone 20mg, prednisone or prednisolone 50mg provide a **mineralcorticoid effect** approximately equal to 0.1mg of fludrocortisone.

*** Adapted from LexiDrugs Corticosteroids Systemic Equivalencies, May 2020