



## Antenatal Corticosteroids



### Overview

We give these drugs to premature babies while they are still in the womb. They speed up the development of the lungs. They help protect against lung disease and other serious problems.

### How are they given?

How are antenatal corticosteroids given? We give them to the mother before the baby's birth. They're usually given in a series of injections over a few days. The steroids pass from the mother through the placenta and to the baby in the womb.

### What are the benefits?

What are the benefits? Premature babies tend to be weaker and more fragile than full-term babies. They have a higher risk for health problems. The steroids help their lungs develop. These drugs lower the risk of serious breathing problems. They lower the risk of bleeding in the brain. And they may also lower the risk of other serious issues. They give the baby a better chance of survival.

### Conclusion

To learn more about antenatal steroids, talk to your doctor.