



**INTERNAL MEDICINE:
TREATING ADDISON'S DISEASE WITH DOCP**

Treatment tip

Patients receiving treatment with DOCP can often receive it less frequently than the manufacturer's label recommendations (every 21 days). It is known that the duration of action in many patients may be longer than 21 days. It is more the exception to the rule when a patient needs the DOCP more frequently than once a month. In fact, some patients can be managed with DOCP injections every three to four months.

Example protocol

Initial check of serum electrolytes at three weeks. If normal, then delay the DOCP injection one week and recheck electrolytes. If at week four either sodium or chloride is low or potassium elevated, injections every three weeks are recommended. If the electrolyte levels are normal, then monthly injections can be recommended or continue the approach of delaying injections by 3-7 days with each subsequent visit until the sodium or chloride begins to decline or the potassium begins to climb.

Client/patient benefit

Less frequent DOCP dosing is comparatively less expensive than daily Florinef. Furthermore, Florinef may produce Cushing's effects. DOCP has no corticosteroid activity. Low dose prednisone (usually effective @ 0.1 mg/kg SID) is all that is required for patients on DOCP.

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MVS offers full-time internal medicine service at all three hospital locations and our internists serve as an extension of your practice. Our clinicians have years of specialized training and experience. Please let us know how we can help you and your clients.

Questions?

Our internists are available for questions and consultations on medical conditions. They are also on-call for in-house consultation on medicine cases seen through the emergency service. Our internists review critical medical cases.

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