**MEDICATION:** Dexamethasone (Decadron®)

**USES:** To reduce inflammation, decrease or prevent nausea and vomiting, and reduce swelling of the brain resulting from radiation treatment

**ADMINISTERED:** Oral

**Potential Side Effects:**
- Irregular menstrual periods
- Restlessness, anxiety, sleep disturbances, or other mood changes
- Increased appetite and fluid retention resulting in weight gain.
- Swelling of feet, ankles or legs
- Increased white blood cell count, blood sugar, or blood pressure
- Loss of muscle mass
- Changes in skin color or freckling
- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, bleeding of the stomach lining
- Unusual weakness/tiredness
- Acne
- Temporary elevation of blood sugar may occur

(The side effects listed above are those that occur most frequently. Other side effects may occur; please contact your doctor to report any new medical problems!)

**Warnings:**
- Inform your doctor if you are:
  1. allergic to any food or medicine,
  2. taking any non-cancer related prescriptions or over the counter drugs
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any new medications including: prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins or herbal supplements.

**Additional Instructions:**
- Do not discontinue this medication unless instructed to by your doctor.
- Always take this medication with food and avoid alcohol.
- You may need to make changes in your diet (such as lowering your salt intake) while on this medication. For more nutritional suggestions please make an appointment with the dietician.