

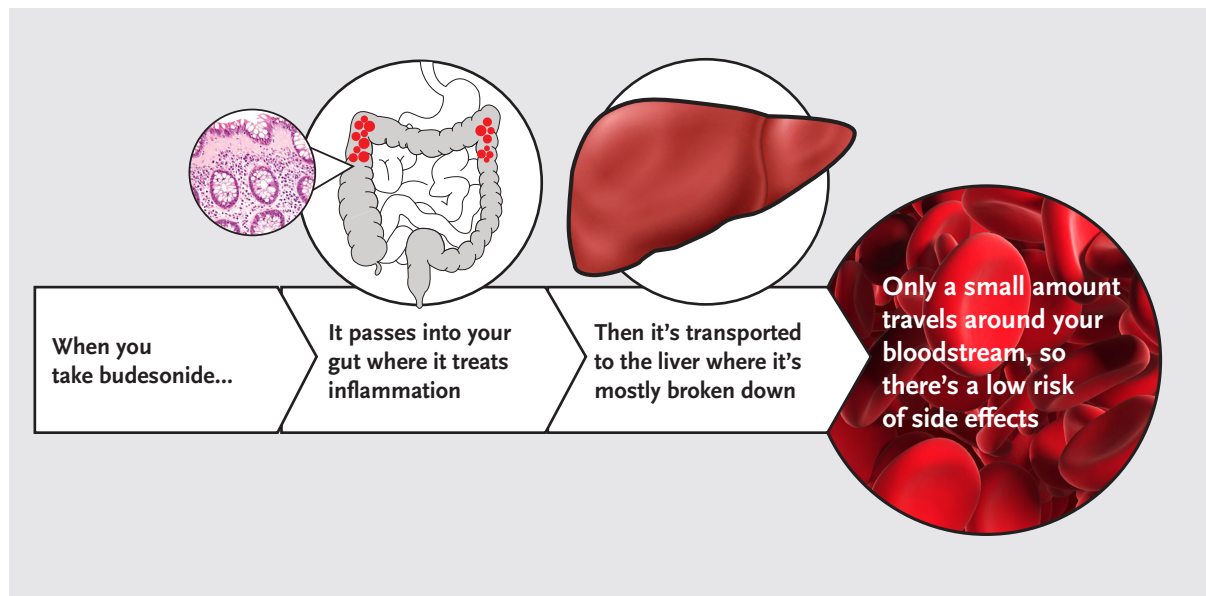


## Not all steroids are the same

Corticosteroids (steroids for short) are very effective at treating inflammation, which they do by reducing the activity of cells in your immune system. While they work really well in many different inflammatory conditions, there is a potential concern that, if you are unfortunate enough to get Covid-19, a steroid with broad effects might affect your ability to respond to the infection.

After swallowing medicines, they generally pass into your gut, on to your liver, and then into your bloodstream. With microscopic colitis (MC), the inflammation is in your gut. So steroid treatment does not need to get into the bloodstream to be effective.

Although budesonide is a steroid, it works in a targeted way limiting the effects it has elsewhere. With budesonide, 90% of the active medicine is broken down in your liver before it can reach the blood.



Because of the way it works, experts at the British Society of Gastroenterologists do not believe taking budesonide increases the risk of getting severe illness from Covid-19. But if you do have any worries about your treatment, please do not hesitate to contact a member of your healthcare team.

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) for UK residents and via <http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/about-us/report-an-issue> for residents of the Republic of Ireland. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of medicines.