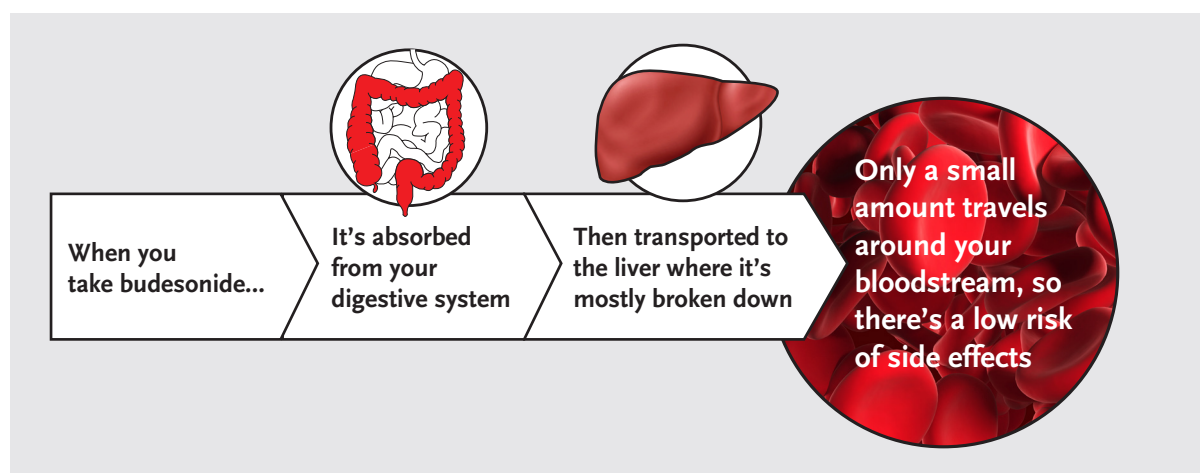


## Why is my steroid medication changing?

Corticosteroids (steroids for short) are very effective at treating inflammation, which they do by reducing the activity of cells in your immune system.

Although budesonide and prednisolone are both steroids, there's a key difference in how much of the active drug is free to travel around your body via your bloodstream.

After swallowing medicines, they generally pass into your gut, on to your liver, and then into your blood. When you suffer from inflammation in the gut or the liver, steroid treatment does not need to get into the blood to be effective. With prednisolone, most of the steroid passes unchanged through the liver and into your blood to circulate to other parts of the body. With budesonide, by contrast, 90% of the active medicine is broken down in your liver before it can reach the blood:



Budesonide is a treatment option that may help reduce side effects by limiting the steroid concentration in the bloodstream.

Please note, when you are on prednisolone treatment, your body makes much less of its own natural steroid, cortisol. You need to give your body time to adjust, so it's important you don't stop taking prednisolone suddenly, but reduce the dose over time. The amount of time you will be on each dose will be individual to you, so please follow the instructions you have been given carefully.

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.