

Medications for gout

Relieve pain. Reduce swelling. Lower uric acid levels. Prevent future attacks.

When to Use*	Medication Type	Medication Examples Some brand names listed	How It Works	Most Common Side Effects**
Relieve Pain and Reduce Swelling	Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH)	Acthar Gel	Suppresses the inflammation and pain of acute gout (may have the most rapid onset)	Retention of sodium (salt) and fluids, weight gain, high blood pressure, loss of potassium and headache
	Colchicine	Colchicine	Suppresses the inflammation and pain of acute gout	Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea
	Injectable Glucocorticosteroids Oral Glucocorticosteroids	Methylprednisolone (Medrol); Prednisone (Deltasone); Triamcinolone (Kenalog)	Suppresses the inflammation and pain of acute gout	Retention of sodium (salt) and fluids, weight gain, high blood pressure, loss of potassium and headache
	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAIDs)	Celecoxib (Celebrex); Ibuprofen (Advil); Indomethacin (Indocin); Naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn) <i>Many additional and equally effective NSAIDs are available. Log on to gouteducation.org for more information</i>	Suppresses the inflammation and pain of acute gout	Nausea, stomach discomfort, heartburn, kidney problems, retention of sodium (salt) and fluids May interact with blood pressure and heart medications
Lower Uric Acid Levels and Prevent Future Attacks	Allopurinol	Lopurin; Zyloprim	Decreases the body's production of uric acid	Rash, diarrhea, nausea and drowsiness If initiated without the use of the anti-inflammation medications listed above, the patient may experience frequent episodes of gout during the first year of treatment
	Probenecid	Benemid; Probalan	Increases the kidney's ability to remove uric acid from the bloodstream	Diarrhea, headache, nausea and liver function abnormalities If initiated without the use of the anti-inflammation medications listed above, the patient may experience frequent episodes of gout during the first year of treatment Should not be used by patients with kidney stones or patients taking methotrexate

Brand names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

* Take as directed by physician or pharmacist according to prescription label and ask your health care professional to explain anything you do not understand. Do not take more or less medication than prescribed.

** Ask your physician or pharmacist about other possible side effects. See product package insert or log on to gouteducation.org for a complete list of side effects.