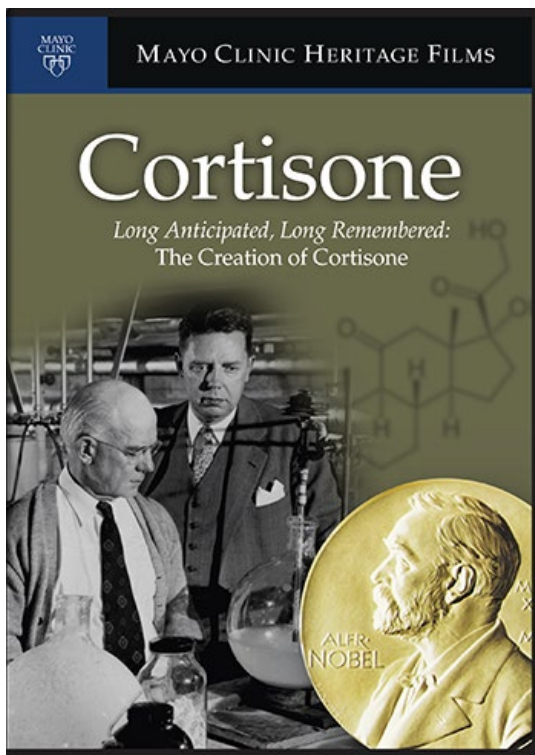




## Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

# Long Anticipated, Long Remembered: The Creation of Cortisone



The creation of cortisone is one of the milestones of medicine and a proud moment in the history of Mayo Clinic. It was a journey that included unlikely partnerships, a race against the Nazis and a clinical trial with astonishing results, culminating in a Nobel Prize.

This documentary tells a story of groundbreaking science sparked by creative intuition, of persistence in the face of repeated setbacks, of dedicated clinicians and courageous patients, and of countless lives reclaimed.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do you know of anyone who suffered from rheumatoid arthritis before the days of cortisone?
2. Dr. Kendall liked to say, "In the search for truth, time has no meaning." But under what circumstances should research end if it has failed to produce results so that resources may be invested elsewhere?
3. Dr. Kendall said he wanted to "grow a great big oak tree," not "a bunch of blackberry bushes." Do you think more modest research initiatives are just as important as "breakthroughs?"

4. Medical research is a highly scientific, data-driven endeavor. What role do you think intuition and chance play in a successful outcome?
5. Under today's standards for experimental treatments, the clinical trials for cortisone could not be conducted as they were in the 1940s. Do you think patients should be able to choose to participate in research despite unknown risks?
6. When a new medicine is only available in small quantities, who do you think should be responsible for deciding who gets it?
7. Some people have questioned whether it was wise for Mayo Clinic to promote the rapid, widespread availability of cortisone at the expense of receiving a greater return on their investment in developing the drug. What's your opinion about that?