

Oclacitinib - Main

Oclacitinib - Chewable Tablet (Dogs)

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Trade Names:

Apoquel®, Apoquel® Chewable

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Canine atopic dermatitis or atopy is a common allergic skin disease in dogs that causes pruritis or itchiness. The often-observed scratching, licking, chewing or biting may be triggered by pollens, molds, dust mites or other environmental allergens. This drug is used primarily in dogs to treat allergic skin disease and is available as a tablet.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An immunosuppressant synthetic Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor (immunomodulator)

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To control the itching or pruritus that is associated with allergic and atopic skin conditions

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This medication should be used with caution in dogs with current immunosuppression

This medication modulates the immune system and is not appropriate for use in dogs with serious infections

This medication should not be used in dogs less than 12 months of age

This medication should be used with caution in dogs with recurrent demodex infections and neoplasia (cancer)

This medication should not be used in breeding, pregnant or lactating females

This medication should not be used in animals that will require allergic skin testing in the near future

Safety in breeding, pregnant or nursing pets has not been established

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this drug should not take this medication

DIRECTIONS:

For the oral formulation, read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your dog experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy. This medication is typically started with a more frequent dosing schedule and then tapered down. Canine atopic dermatitis is often a life-long condition and this medication may be required indefinitely for the appropriate management of your pet's allergic skin disease.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work to monitor the medication's effect on the body is recommended. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog is responding clinically.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give medication at the same time(s) daily.

What if a dose is missed?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK A VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

Typical signs of allergies in your pet

Methods to help reduce allergen exposure

Recommendations for bathing and topical therapy

When your pet will need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medications can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Oclacitinib should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Wash hands immediately after handling Oclacitinib tablets.

If accidental eye exposure, flush immediately and seek medical attention.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This is a new drug and there is limited information regarding long term adverse effects

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing lethargy, reduced appetite, anorexia, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea

This medication suppresses the immune system and increase susceptibility to infections, skin disorders (inflammation) and can exacerbate cancer conditions

This medication has been associated with the development of new cancer and dermal masses (papilloma, histiocytomas, lymphoma and others)

This medication has been associated with an increase in liver enzymes, seizures, increased drinking and demodex infections

If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER DRUGS?

Due to recent drug approval, no specific drug interactions have been reported as of this time

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment. Contact your veterinarian if there is any signs of infection, fever, abnormal skin or change with any growths.

As with all prescribed medicines, Oclacitinib should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about Oclacitinib. If you have any questions or concerns about Oclacitinib or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.