

Cyclosporine - Main

Cyclosporine - Capsule (Cats)

Cyclosporine - Capsule (Dogs)

Cyclosporine - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Cyclosporine - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Cyclosporine - Oral Solution (Cats)

Cyclosporine - Oral Solution (Dogs)

Trade Names:

Atopica™, Cyclavance® (cyclosporine oral solution) USP MODIFIED

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Cyclosporine is an immunosuppressive drug used to treat many immune-mediated diseases involving both the skin and circulating blood cells. This medication is available as an oral solution, capsules and an injection.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An immunosuppressive agent

Given by mouth or given as an injection at your veterinarian's clinic

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Most commonly used to treat allergic or atopic dermatitis (inflammation of the skin resulting in itchiness or pruritis) in cats and dogs

Used to treat immune-mediated diseases (e.g. immune-mediated hemolytic anemia, discoid lupus erythematosus in the dog)

May also be used to treat 'dry eye' (or keratoconjunctivitis sicca/KCS), perineal fistulas, asthma in the cat

Used to prevent rejection of transplanted organs

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THIS MEDICATION?

Pets weighing less than 3 pounds (1.4 kg) or those less than 6 months of age

This medication should be used with caution in pets with liver or kidney disease

This medication should not be used in pets with cancer

This medication should be used with caution in pets with a history of seizures, diabetes mellitus and infections (can exacerbate an existing infection)

Safe use has not been established for pregnant or nursing animals

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to Cyclosporine

DIRECTIONS: The injectable formulation of Cyclosporine is only given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and would not be prescribed for use at home. For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully. Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed. 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. For allergic skin diseases, this drug will often be needed for the rest of your pet's life. It will be very important to follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding recheck appointments.

This medication is absorbed better on an empty stomach. Ideally, give this medication 1 hour before a meal or 2 hours after. Consider wearing gloves when handling this medication and wash hands after medicating your pet. Cyclosporine tastes bitter. Do not open capsules and give contents by sprinkling on food.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work to monitor your pet's health disease as well as this medication's effects on the body is recommended if long-term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically. The dose may be tapered by decreasing the frequency of dosing to every other day or 2 times per week until a minimum frequency is achieved that will maintain the desired therapeutic effect.

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. You should see improvements in your pet's clinical signs.

If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this 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, but do not give more than one dose/day. 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 YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

Monitoring your pet's weight and appetite while on this medication

When will your pet 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 medicines can be given together.

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

#### STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

There are different brands of the oral liquid but they are not the same strength. Do not substitute one for the other.

Shake oral liquids before using. Check with package insert with oral formulations regarding how long the medication can be used after opening the bottle.

If capsules come in a foil blister pack, do not open the pack until ready to use.

Store at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight. Protect from freezing and do not refrigerate.

Long-term storage in some plastics can cause inactivation of the drug. For products that come with an oral dosing syringe, do not rinse or clean the syringe between uses.

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

Do not handle this product if you are pregnant or trying to conceive. Consider wearing gloves and wash your hands well after handling. Do not eat, drink or smoke while administering this medication.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

#### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

If your pet experiences side effects related to the digestive system (loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea), contact your veterinarian. Giving the medication with a small amount of food may be necessary.

Other side effects may include ear or urinary infections, jaundice, or lethargy.

More rarely, some pets experience overgrowth of the gums, muscle cramps and increased hair growth. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of the above signs.

High doses may cause immune system suppression which may cause your pet to be more susceptible to infection. Contact your veterinarian if your pet has a fever (>103°F), painful urination, fatigue, sneezing, coughing or runny eyes.

This moderate-acting medication should stop working in a few days, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

#### CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when given in conjunction with ACE inhibitors (benazepril, enalapril), acetazolamide, acyclovir, allopurinol, alprazolam, aminoglycosides, amiodarone, amphotericin B, angiotensin receptor blockers (telmisartan, valsartan), azole antifungals (fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), azathioprine, bromocriptine, calcium channel blockers (amlodipine, diltiazem, verapamil), carbamazepine, carvedilol, ceftriazone, chloramphenicol, cimetidine, cisapride, clonidine, clindamycin, colchicine, corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide, danazol, digoxin, diltiazem, doxorubicin, estrogens, famotidine, fatty acids, fentanyl, fluroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, enrofloxacin, marbofloxacin, orbifloxacin), fluvoxamine, furosemide, glipizide, glyburide, griseofulvin, hydrochlorothiazide, imipenem, ivermectin, leflunomide, macrolide antibiotics (azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin), medroxyprogesterone, melphalan, methotrexate, metoclopramide, metronidazole, midazolam, mitotane, morphine, mycophenolate, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), octreotide, omeprazole, phenobarbital, phenytoin, potassium supplements, rifampin, sertraline, spironolactone, St. Johns Wort, sulfadiazine, sulfamethoxazole, sulfasalazine, terbinafine, triamterene, trimethoprim, vaccinations, vancomycin, verapamil, vincristine, warfarin and some vitamins and supplements

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Cyclosporine

Make sure your veterinarian knows all of the medicines and supplements you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine, including this one, before checking with your veterinarian.

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.

As with all prescribed medicines, Cyclosporine 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 Cyclosporine. If you have any questions or concerns about Cyclosporine or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.