

Hydrocortisone - Main

Hydrocortisone - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Hydrocortisone - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Hydrocortisone - Powder (Cats)

Hydrocortisone - Powder (Dogs)

Hydrocortisone - Tablet (Cats)

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Hydrocortisone is an anti-inflammatory agent that is used in dogs and cats to treat many inflammatory, autoimmune and allergy conditions and many other diseases. Hydrocortisone is available as a tablet, powder and as an injectable solution.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A corticosteroid or synthetic glucocorticoid medication that also has mineralocorticoid effects

Has anti-inflammatory and anti-allergy properties

Hydrocortisone is given by mouth

Hydrocortisone sodium succinate is given by intramuscular (IM) or intravenous (IV) injections

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Often used to treat many conditions including allergies, inflammation, shock, colitis, various endocrine, dermatological, ophthalmic and respiratory conditions

Due to both glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid activity, it is often used to treat patients that are having an acute Addisonian (hypoadrenocorticism) crisis

Often a combination ingredient found in topical cream preparations

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Should not be used in animals with acute or chronic bacterial infections

Should not be used in animals with systemic fungal or viral infections

Should not be used in animals with certain types of skin mites

Use with caution in animals with kidney or liver disease

Use with caution in animals with history of stomach or ocular ulcers

Use with caution in animals with high blood pressure or cardiovascular disease

Use with caution when injected intramuscularly (IM) in animals with clotting abnormalities

Use with caution in animals with hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease)

Use with caution when being injected locally if there are concerns regarding infection

Use with caution in animals with diabetes mellitus

Use with caution in pediatric animals as it can affect growth

Animals that are intended for breeding, may be pregnant or nursing

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

DIRECTIONS: Injectable formulations of Hydrocortisone are commonly administered in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, Hydrocortisone should be given according to your veterinarian's recommendations.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Give the exact amount recommended and only as often as directed. The amount recommended and frequency of administration is often dependent upon the clinical response and initial reason for use.

Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Your pet may be started on a higher dose and then have it slowly reduced. It is important not to abruptly discontinue any steroid type medication.

Baseline blood work may be required to assess your pet's general health. Periodic blood work to monitor this medication's effects on the body is also advised if long term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat 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.

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

Give oral formulations with food to reduce the chance of stomach upset and stomach ulcers.

Ensure your pet has plenty of fresh, clean drinking water while taking this medication.

Call ahead for refills.

ADMINISTRATION OF TOPICAL MEDICATION:

Discuss with your veterinarian if you should clean the affected area prior to applying the medication. It may be necessary to clip the hair around the affected area to assist with the treatment of the skin infection.

Discuss with your veterinarian if you should apply any bandaging after applying the medication to the affected area.

Avoid getting this medication in your pet's eyes, nose, or mouth.

Always wash your hands before and after applying any topical medication. If treating a potentially contagious skin condition, consider using gloves to apply the medication and consult with your veterinarian about further measures to avoid spreading the infection.

If you are having difficulty applying the medication, contact your veterinarian.

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 YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

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

Concerns with timing of vaccinations

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:

Hydrocortisone should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dark place at room temperature away from heat and direct light.

Pets that have received long term steroids, should be slowly tapered when discontinuing.

Pets undergoing a stressful event during the tapering process may require additional medications.

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:

The primary objective of steroid therapy is to achieve a satisfactory degree of control with a minimum effective dose

Most side effects are due to long term administration which can have negative effects on the endocrine system, specifically the adrenal glands

This medication can cause an increase in appetite, weight gain, dull hair coat, darkened thin skin, panting, vomiting, diarrhea, changes to sleep patterns, muscle weakness and an increase in liver enzymes

This medication can cause an increase in thirst and urination, your pet may have accidents and require to go outside or use the litter box more frequently

This medication can cause cataracts, glaucoma, pancreatitis, diabetes mellitus, gastrointestinal ulceration, changes to potassium levels and behavior changes

This medication can affect the immune system causing immunosuppression and increased susceptibility to infections, delayed wound healing and impact recovery from infection

This medication can interfere with certain endocrine tests

Corticosteroids can cause premature labor in pregnant animals

Corticosteroids may stunt growth in young and growing animals

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 MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Hydrocortisone in conjunction with amphotericin B, anticholinesterase agents (pyridostigmine, neostigmine), aspirin, barbiturates, clarithromycin, cyclophosphamide, cyclosporine, digoxin, diuretics, (furosemide, thiazides), ephedrine, estrogens, erythromycin, insulin, isoniazid, ketoconazole, local anesthetics, mitotane, opioids, phenobarbital, rifampin, theophyllines, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), vaccines and warfarin

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Hydrocortisone

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, Hydrocortisone 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 Hydrocortisone. If you have any questions or concerns about this medication or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.