

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

Corticosteroid Inhalers

(Azmacort)

Common Drug Name

Triamcinolone

Common Brand Name

Azmacort

Storage

Store at room temperature, in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Triamcinolone is a corticosteroid that can be used in an inhaler as a treatment for asthma. Corticosteroids are also referred to as glucocorticosteroids, glucocorticoids, or sometimes simply as steroids.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulties giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Dosage depends on the product used. Your veterinarian may recommend starting at a higher dose and then reducing the dose.

Follow your veterinarian's directions on how to properly use the inhaler on your pet.

If you miss a dose, contact your veterinarian to determine the correct dosage schedule. Do not give two doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

Side effects are usually dose dependent. If side effects occur, contact your veterinarian, who may decrease the dosage, frequency, or type of corticosteroid.

The most common side effects at high doses are increased appetite, drinking, and urination. Your pet may have more

"accidents" and need to go outside or use the litter box more often.

Less common side effects include weight gain, panting, diarrhea, vomiting, and behavior changes.

Side effects of high dose, long-term use may include muscle loss, weakness, and the development of diabetes or hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease). The typical signs of these diseases are increased thirst, urination, and appetite. Animals with Cushing's disease may also develop thin skin, a poor hair coat, and a "pot-belly."

Immune system suppression may occur, especially on higher doses, making a pet more susceptible to infection. Contact your veterinarian if your pet has a fever (over 103° F), painful urination (a sign of urinary tract infection), tiredness, sneezing, coughing, or runny eyes.

Precautions

Not for use in animals with systemic fungal infections, some types of mange (mites), stomach ulcers, Cushing's disease, high blood pressure, kidney disease, or congestive heart failure.

Do not use in pregnant animals. May cause premature birth. Can cause birth defects in dogs, rabbits, and rodents.

If on long-term therapy, do not discontinue the drug abruptly. The dose needs to be tapered off over several weeks to allow the body to start making its own cortisol again. May need to give additional steroids while tapering, if the animal is stressed.

May stunt growth if used in young, growing animals.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with triamcinolone.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before you use triamcinolone with vitamins and supplements, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, carprofen (Rimadyl), deracoxib (Deramaxx), or etodolac (EtoGesic), insulin, modified live vaccines, phenytoin, phenobarbital, rifampin, cyclosporine, estrogens, erythromycin, or mitotane, amphotericin B, furosemide, or thiazide, since interactions may occur.

High doses and long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may cause abnormal levels of hepatic enzymes, thyroid hormone, cholesterol, and potassium in the blood, and can affect many laboratory tests. Make sure your veterinarian knows your pet is taking corticosteroids prior to testing.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

An acute overdose is unlikely to cause problems. A chronic overdose is likely to cause signs of Cushing's disease or diabetes; both diseases commonly cause increased urinating, drinking, and eating.

Abruptly stopping high dose, long-term treatment with corticosteroids may cause signs of Addison's disease, including vomiting, weakness, collapse and sudden death.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.