

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.

Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Preparations

(Optimmune)

Common Drug Name

Cyclosporine ophthalmic ointment

Common Brand Names

Optimmune Ophthalmic Ointment

Compounded products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature (36-86°F) in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Cyclosporine modifies the immune response. It is used as an ophthalmic preparation in the eye to treat keratoconjunctivitis (KCS, 'dry eye') and chronic superficial keratitis in dogs. Usually KCS requires lifetime treatment.

Cyclosporine is used in other forms to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty applying this medication, contact your veterinarian.

If discharge is present, the area should be cleansed with a sterile eyewash solution prior to applying the ointment or suspension.

When applying an ointment, place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling. Pull down gently on the lower lid with a finger or thumb, depending upon which eye you are treating. Rest your other hand on top of the pet's head. Be sure the tip of the tube is pointed away from your pet's eye so if your pet jerks, the tube tip will not injure the eye. Hold the tube of ointment about one inch from the eye and apply a short ribbon of ointment along the inner edge of the lower lid, starting at the inside corner of the eye. Rotate the tube when you reach the outer portion of the eye to help detach the ointment from the tube. Have your pet blink, and gently hold the eyelid shut. Gently

massage the closed eyelid to disperse the ointment.

Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. Prevent your pet from bumping into things and becoming injured.

If using a suspension, shake the solution well before using. Follow the directions above, but squeeze the drops into the corner of the eye, taking care not to touch the dropper to the eye surface. Continue to hold the head back for a moment while the drops disperse over the whole eye surface.

Never touch the tip of the tube or dropper to the pet's eye, lids, or eyelashes. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the dropper or tube tip with your fingers, as this will also contaminate the medication.

Always wash your hands before and after applying this medication.

If you are applying more than one medication to the eye, allow 5 minutes between applications so one medication is not washed out by the next. Be sure not to interchange the caps of the medications.

Several days to a few weeks of therapy may be needed before an improvement in the condition is seen.

If you miss a dose, apply it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the application you missed and go back to the regular schedule.

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

Possible Side Effects

Side effects are rare due to the very low concentration of cyclosporine, and since little of it is absorbed into the bloodstream. May see mild eye irritation (redness, rubbing at the eye, excess blinking) when starting treatment. Consult your veterinarian if these effects are severe or do not subside within a week.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to cyclosporine.

The safety of this medication in puppies, or breeding, pregnant, or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young) has not been determined.

Do not use in animals with viral or fungal infections of the eye. Successfully treat those conditions before using ophthalmic cyclosporine.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding eye examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with cyclosporine ophthalmic preparations.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using cyclosporine ophthalmic preparations with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, since interactions may occur.

Wait at least 5 minutes between applying cyclosporine and any other eye medication.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Unlikely to have an overdose with the eye preparation. Oral overdose may cause liver and kidney damage.

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

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