

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

Fludrocortisone Acetate

(Florinef)

Common Drug Name

Fludrocortisone Acetate

Common Brand Names

Florinef

No generic products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Protect from excessive heat.

Uses

Fludrocortisone is a mineralocorticoid, a hormone that helps to regulate the concentration of sodium and potassium in the body. It is used for the treatment of Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism) in dogs and cats. It usually needs to be given for the life of the animal.

Fludrocortisone may also be used to lower the potassium level in animals with hyperkalemia (high blood levels of potassium).

Dose and Administration

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

The dose may be adjusted by your veterinarian, based upon blood electrolyte levels taken at regular intervals. Consult with your veterinarian regarding the testing schedule for your pet.

May be given with food to reduce side effects.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next

dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

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

Possible Side Effects

May be irritating to the stomach. Give with food to reduce this side effect.

May see an increase in drinking and urination, fluid accumulation in the limbs, weakness, increased appetite or weight gain.

Other side effects usually due to giving too much or decreasing the dose too quickly. See Signs of Toxicity/Overdose, below.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above side effects.

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 it.

May be used in pregnant animals, however, it does enter the milk. If the mother is receiving fludrocortisone, place the offspring on milk replacer after they have received the colostrum (first milk immediately after birth).

Fludrocortisone may suppress the immune system, causing the animal to be more prone to infections. Contact your

veterinarian if your pet has a fever (over 103°F), stops eating, becomes depressed, or has painful urination (a sign of urinary tract infection).

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

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your pet is taking while your pet is receiving fludrocortisone.

Consult your veterinarian before using fludrocortisones with amphotericin B or potassium-depleting diuretics (such as furosemide, Lasix, or Salix), salicylate (aspirin products), barbiturates, phenytoin, or rifampin, since interactions may occur.

May alter insulin requirements.

May increase risk of digoxin (a heart medication) toxicity.

No known food interactions.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see high blood pressure, swelling of the limbs, or low potassium levels, resulting in weakness.

Heart enlargement may occur with chronic overdosing.

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.