

DOCTORS FOSTER & SMITH PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhineland, WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021

Corticosteroid Ophthalmic Preparations

(Decadron, Pred Forte, Econopred Plus)

Generic Name

Corticosteroid ophthalmic preparations

Generic products are available.

Common Brand Names

Decadron (dexamethasone)
Pred Forte (prednisolone)
Econopred Plus (prednisolone)

Storage

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

Uses

Corticosteroids, such as prednisolone or dexamethasone, are used to treat inflammation of the eye.

Dose and Administration

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

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

Shake the solution well before using. When applying the ophthalmic solution, place one hand under and around your pet's chin and lift upward, so the pet's eyes are looking towards the ceiling. Rest your other hand on top of the pet's head. 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.

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.

Never touch the 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.

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 unusual with this medication.

If ingested, the most common side effect of corticosteroids is an increase in the amount of drinking and urinating. Less commonly may see an increased appetite and weight gain, panting, diarrhea, vomiting, and behavior changes.

Precautions

Do not use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to any of the ingredients.

Do not use in fungal or viral infections of the eye before healing has started. Also do not use if an ulcer on the eye could be present, since it could cause the ulcer to worsen or rupture. Therefore, an ophthalmic exam by a veterinarian is necessary before using these products.

Prolonged use may result in a serious bacterial or fungal infection.

Prevent ingestion of the medication. If ingested at high doses or for extended periods, corticosteroids can cause premature birth. In dogs, rabbits, and rodents, corticosteroids can cause birth defects.

Use with caution in animals with diabetes mellitus or Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism).

Drug and Food Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your pet is taking while using corticosteroid ophthalmic preparations.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Adverse reactions and toxicities are unlikely if used according to directions. Contact your veterinarian if your pet shows any abnormal signs.

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