



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CYCLOSPORIN

MEDICATION INFORMATION

Cyclosporin Modified is used for the treatment of allergies or other conditions in dogs and cats. It takes about two weeks to start working, and then as long as four to six weeks to see the maximum effects at controlling symptoms of the skin condition.

How is it given?

Cyclosporin Modified (Atopica®, Cyclavance®, or generic types) comes as a small liquid-filled gelatin capsule or as an oral liquid. It is given one or more times daily to your pet. It is recommended that you do not give the capsule or liquid with a full meal, and it is preferable to give the medication at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. However, giving the capsule with a small amount of food or in a treat is permitted. Do not squeeze the contents of a capsule out onto a treat – it's very bitter, and it's likely the pet will not eat the treat! The total daily dose can be given all at once, or divided into several doses – it doesn't matter.

If this medication helps your pet, after 4 to 6 weeks we may be able to slowly decrease the dose and/or switch to giving it every other day.

Are there side effects?

This medication causes temporary stomach or intestinal upset in some pets. This may include nausea, not eating, vomiting, loose stools, or diarrhea. These effects usually disappear after you give the medication for a few days or as long as a couple weeks. If the effects seem especially bad, it may help to divide the capsules up over the course of the day, or to give them with a little food. Another trick is to freeze the capsules before use – sometimes vomiting will not occur if you give frozen capsules. Please let us know if your pet has problems with vomiting, as we may be able to temporarily give a medication that will stop this effect. Very rarely, over time, cyclosporine can cause swelling of the gums, which can create “bad breath,” other dental problems, or hesitation to eat hard foods. Again, this is rare, and if it occurs can be treated effectively. Other than this, cyclosporine is remarkably free of side effects in animals, even with many years of use. No specific monitoring tests (blood checks, etc.) are generally necessary with cyclosporine.

What are the precautions?

This medication is prescribed by your veterinarian and is not intended for human use. Keep this drug out of reach of children and other pets. It should not be used in breeding, pregnant, or nursing animals. Please inform your veterinarian of any other medications your pet may be taking as some drugs can interfere with the concentration of drug in the blood. In the case of overdose, please contact your veterinarian immediately. This medication should be stored at room temperature and away from excessive heat, light, and moisture.

There are some special considerations for use in cats. It is recommended that all cats are tested for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency viruses as well as have a general parasite screen, especially for a microscopic internal parasite called *Toxoplasma*. Screening for *Toxoplasma* (a blood test) should be done prior to starting treatment as well as periodically while receiving this medication. Preventative flea/parasite medication should be administered monthly to prevent infections transmitted by fleas. Cats should not receive any raw meat in their diet, and should be kept indoors so hunting behavior (and thus exposure to parasites and other diseases) can be limited.

Note: an older (non-modified) form of this medication is available, called just *Cyclosporin* or *Sandimmune®*. This form of the drug is often not well absorbed into the bloodstream in dogs or cats, so we do not recommend it. You should always use the medication called *Cyclosporin Modified* for pets.



CALL US 24/7

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