Cortisone Acetate
(kor-ti-zone ass-ah-tate)
Description: Corticosteroid
Other Names for this Medication: None. Human: 25 mg oral tablets.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information
- Not commonly used, but may be effective for long-term treatment of hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease) in dogs.
- May be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- Side effects not likely, but if dose is too high (long-term), “Cushingoid” effects (eg, excessive urinations, thirst, and appetite) could occur.
- Animals using this drug for long term treatment of hypoadrenocorticism, may require higher doses or additional medicine (eg, methylprednisolone) during times of stress (eg, surgery, trauma, illness).
- Talk with your veterinarian before making any dose changes; do not stop drug abruptly.

How is this medication useful?
Cortisone acetate is used for the long-term treatment of hypoadrenocorticism (Addison’s disease) in dogs. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?
Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.
- Other drugs can interact with cortisone acetate, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.

If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work.

If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.

Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

**How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?**

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours; however, you will not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your veterinarian will need to run further tests to determine if the medication is working appropriately. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

**When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?**

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal. The following are when cortisone acetate is used to replace the naturally occurring cortisol normally produced in the body.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in dogs:

- That are allergic to it.
- That are in an Addisonian crisis.

If your animal matches either of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks versus benefits.

**What are the side effects of this medication?**

When used for hormone replacement to treat hypoadrenocorticism (Addison’s disease), side effects from the drug are not expected, but can occur.

**Common, but not serious side effects include:**

- Increased thirst, need to urinate, and appetite.
- With long-term use: pot belly, skin or coat changes, hair loss, muscle wasting, weakness.

If you see any of these signs, you do not have to be overly concerned unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

**Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:**

- Weakness, lack of energy, shaking, collapse (passing out), loss of appetite, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, slow heart rate, painful abdomen.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

**If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?**

One-time overdoses of cortisol are not likely to cause serious problems, but if you witness or suspect an overdose, it is best to contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

**How should this medication be given?**

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label’s instructions and obtain refills as needed. If you want to stop giving this medication, it is important to talk to your veterinarian, as it is very important to not stop the drug abruptly as serious side effects could occur.

**What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?**

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.
How should I store this medication?

- Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don’t use it all?

- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- Your veterinarian will need to do tests and evaluate your animal to properly adjust the dose of this drug. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- If you are seeing a different veterinarian than usual, be sure to tell them your animal is getting cortisone acetate. Animals that require surgery or are stressed from trauma or illness may require additional glucocorticoid drugs. Also, cortisone acetate can affect some laboratory tests.
- Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.