

Cyclosporine Ophthalmic

T-Cell Immunosuppressive Agent (Ophthalmic Drug)



Prescriber Highlights

- Ophthalmic ointment for treatment of keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) and other inflammatory ocular diseases
- Normal tear production requires weeks of therapy with cyclosporine; however, treatment cessation results in loss of tear production within days
- Patients that do not respond to approved ophthalmic ointment may benefit from higher concentrations of cyclosporine compounded as an ophthalmic solution

Uses, Indications

- Approved for treatment of KCS in veterinary patients
- Also used to treat other ocular inflammatory diseases (eg, pannus, uveitis, immune-mediated keratitis)

Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings

- **Contraindications**
Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to cyclosporine or any of its components; patients with ocular viral or fungal infections
- **Precautions**
Cyclosporine for humans (0.05% ophthalmic solution) has proven ineffective in dogs with KCS
- **Warnings**
Do not use with a subpalpebral lavage catheter, because the catheter will likely be obstructed

Side Effects

- Local irritation, periocular erythema, lid spasm, eye-rubbing, alopecia, epiphora

Monitoring

- Use Schirmer tear test to assess adequate tear production

Client Information

- Use q12h
- Use proper administration techniques to avoid contamination of the medication
- Keep the cap tightly closed when not in use
- Wait 5 minutes after applying the medication before applying other eye medications
- Store the ointment in the refrigerator; keep the solution at room temperature

Dosage Forms

- Cyclosporine 0.2% ophthalmic ointment
- Cyclosporine 1% to 2% ophthalmic solution may be prepared by compounding pharmacies

Information about this drug was adapted from Plumb's Veterinary Drugs. Further details and more therapeutics can be found with a subscription at plumbsveterinarydrugs.com