

Hyperadrenocorticism

FAQs: Treatment

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How is hyperadrenocorticism treated?

This disease is usually treated with medication. In some cases, surgery might be recommended.

Will my pet need surgery?

Not all pets with hyperadrenocorticism need or should have surgery. Your veterinarian will talk about whether surgery is an option for your pet. Additional testing may be done to find out what part of the body is causing your pet's disease and help determine whether surgery is recommended.

At this stage:

- ☐ Your pet's type of disease cannot be treated with surgery.
- ☐ Additional testing is needed to see if your pet is a candidate for surgery.
- ☐ After discussing the expense and risks versus the benefits of surgery with you, surgery and/or additional testing will not be pursued at this time.

Are there risks to treating my pet's hyperadrenocorticism with medication?

These side effects can occur in the first several days of treatment:

- ▶ Lethargy
- ▶ Vomiting
- ▶ Diarrhea
- ▶ Loss of appetite

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian at: _____

Severe or life-threatening side effects are rare with the medication that is commonly prescribed. If these do occur, they are caused by the medication being too effective, resulting in important hormones becoming too low. Fortunately, this condition is usually reversible.

When your veterinarian starts your pet on medication, he or she will send written treatment instructions for you to follow at home, including monitoring for potential side effects. Blood testing will also be scheduled to confirm your pet's medication dose is appropriate.

Once my pet starts medication, when will I notice improvement?

- ▶ After approximately 8 to 12 weeks: Improvement in panting, tiredness, excessive drinking, and/or urination
- ▶ After approximately 4 to 6 months: Improvement in associated skin conditions

Each pet's experience may differ.

REMEMBER: HYPERADRENOCORTICISM IS TREATED BUT NOT CURED BY MEDICATION. IF A PET STOPS RECEIVING MEDICATION, THE SIGNS WILL RETURN.

How much will treatment cost?

Talk to your veterinary team about a treatment plan that outlines the cost of each step of treatment. Because every pet is different, the plan may need to change depending on your pet's unique needs and test results.

If you want more details on the cost of treatment, please:

- ☐ Request a treatment plan from the veterinary team
- ☐ Refer to the treatment plan already provided on (date): _____
- ☐ Wait for the veterinary team to provide a treatment plan by (date): _____ via
 - ☐ Phone call
 - ☐ Email
 - ☐ Other: _____

What should I do next?

Your veterinarian recommends this next step in your pet's treatment:

Please schedule your pet's next visit for:

- ☐ Recheck examination
- ☐ Blood work

Due approximately (date): _____