

Desoxycorticosterone Pivalate (DOCP)

Mineralocorticoid (Systemic Drug)



Prescriber Highlights

- Parenteral mineralocorticoid used to treat hypoadrenocorticism (ie, Addison's disease)
- Does not contain any glucocorticoid activity; a glucocorticoid must be used concurrently in the treatment of Addison's disease
- Adjust dosage based on monitoring parameters

Uses, Indications

- Indicated for the parenteral treatment of adrenocortical insufficiency (ie, Addison's disease) in dogs
- Used extra-label for the same indication in cats

Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings

- **Contraindications**
 - Patients with hypersensitivity to DOCP, congestive heart failure, severe renal disease, primary hepatic failure, or edema
- **Precautions**
 - Some animals may be more or less sensitive to the drug's effects; dosing without ongoing monitoring is inappropriate
 - Do not administer intravenously as acute collapse and shock may result

Warnings

- Animals suffering from hypovolemia, prerenal azotemia, and inadequate tissue perfusion must be rehydrated with intravenous fluid therapy before starting DOCP

Side Effects

- Possible irritation at the injection site
- Depression, lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, polydipsia, polyuria, panting, diarrhea, facial and muzzle edema, urticaria, anaphylaxis, urinary tract infection, urinary incontinence, restlessness
- Anemia following injection has been reported

Drug Interactions

- Concurrent use with amphotericin B or potassium-depleting diuretics may result in hypokalemia
- Potassium-sparing diuretics may counter the DOCP effects
- May reduce salicylate levels when used with aspirin
- Use in diabetic patients may result in increased insulin requirement

Monitoring

- Serum electrolytes, BUN, creatinine
- Body weight, physical examination, evidence of edema

Client Information

- Most commonly injected into the muscle, but can be given subcutaneously
 - Must never be given intravenously
- Shake the vial vigorously before drawing up into the syringe
- Monitor for symptoms of the dose being too high (eg, increased thirst and urination, edema, weight gain) or too low (eg, lethargy, collapse, inappetence, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea)

Dosage Forms

- Desoxycorticosterone pivalate injectable suspension:
 - 25 mg/ml

–Compiled and summarized from Plumb's® Veterinary Drugs by Shannon Palermo, VMD

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