

## Research Note: Effects of Alfaxalone in Guinea Pigs

Radiography is an important diagnostic tool in guinea pigs and frequently requires sedation; however, neither inhalational nor injectable anesthesia (ie, benzodiazepines,  $\alpha_2$  agonists, ketamine) have been shown to be optimal in terms of effectiveness, reliability, safety, and reversibility. This prospective study evaluated the use of intramuscular alfaxalone as a sedative for guinea pigs undergoing survey radiography. Thirty guinea pigs were administered alfaxalone (5 mg/kg IM), and physiologic variables were assessed. No respiratory depression or decreased temperatures were noted. Recoveries were uneventful. One disadvantage, however, was the lack of reversibility of effects, as no antagonist was available at the time of the study. Further studies are required to evaluate cardiovascular effects, use in unhealthy guinea pigs, and potential benefits of combining alfaxalone with other drugs for more invasive procedures.

### Source

d'Ovidio D, Marino F, Noviello E, Lanaro E, Monticelli P, Adami C. Sedative effects of intramuscular alfaxalone in pet guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*). *Vet Anaesth Analg*. 2018;45(2):183-189.

## Research Note: *Microsporum canis* in Dermatophyte Cultures

This observational retrospective study aimed to determine how frequently *Microsporum canis* was isolated from untreated cats with suspected skin lesions or cats being treated for dermatophytosis after 1, 2, and 3 weeks of incubation on dermatophyte culture mediums. Of 13 772 fungal cultures, 20.9% were positive for *M canis*. Samples tested positive within 14 days of culture in 98.2% of untreated cats and 96.8% of treated cats. Samples requiring more than 14 days of culture demonstrated abnormal gross morphology. The authors concluded that culture results for *M canis* may be finalized after 14 days with no growth as compared with the current standard of 21 days. This shortened culture period may improve patient quality of life and decrease costs by minimizing the isolation period for cats with suspected infection.

### Source

Stuntebeck R, Moriello KA, Verbrugge M. Evaluation of incubation time for *Microsporum canis* dermatophyte cultures. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2018;20(10):997-1000.

## VETORYL® CAPSULES (trilostane)

5 mg, 10 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg and 120 mg strengths  
Adrenocortical suppressant for oral use in dogs only.

**BRIEF SUMMARY** (For Full Prescribing Information, see package insert.)

**CAUTION:** Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**DESCRIPTION:** VETORYL Capsules are an orally active synthetic steroid analogue that blocks production of hormones produced in the adrenal cortex of dogs.

**INDICATION:** VETORYL Capsules are indicated for the treatment of pituitary- and adrenal-dependent hyperadrenocorticism in dogs.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** The use of VETORYL Capsules is contraindicated in dogs that have demonstrated hypersensitivity to trilostane. Do not use VETORYL Capsules in animals with primary hepatic disease or renal insufficiency. Do not use in pregnant dogs. Studies conducted with trilostane in laboratory animals have shown teratogenic effects and early pregnancy loss.

**WARNINGS:** In case of overdosage, symptomatic treatment of hypoadrenocorticism with corticosteroids, mineralocorticoids and intravenous fluids may be required. Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors should be used with caution with VETORYL Capsules, as both drugs have aldosterone-lowering effects which may be additive, impairing the patient's ability to maintain normal electrolytes, blood volume and renal perfusion. Potassium sparing diuretics (e.g. spironolactone) should not be used with VETORYL Capsules as both drugs have the potential to inhibit aldosterone, increasing the likelihood of hyperkalemia.

**HUMAN WARNINGS:** Keep out of reach of children. Not for human use. Wash hands after use. Do not empty capsule contents and do not attempt to divide the capsules. Do not handle the capsules if pregnant or if trying to conceive. Trilostane is associated with teratogenic effects and early pregnancy loss in laboratory animals. In the event of accidental ingestion/overdose, seek medical advice immediately and take the labeled container with you.

**PRECAUTIONS:** Hypoadrenocorticism can develop at any dose of VETORYL Capsules. A small percentage of dogs may develop corticosteroid withdrawal syndrome within 10 days of starting treatment. Mitotane (o,p'-DDD) treatment will reduce adrenal function. Experience in foreign markets suggests that when mitotane therapy is stopped, an interval of at least one month should elapse before the introduction of VETORYL Capsules. The use of VETORYL Capsules will not affect the adrenal tumor itself. Adrenalectomy should be considered as an option for cases that are good surgical candidates. The safe use of this drug has not been evaluated in lactating dogs and males intended for breeding.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:** The most common adverse reactions reported are poor/reduced appetite, vomiting, lethargy/dullness, diarrhea, elevated liver enzymes, elevated potassium with or without decreased sodium, elevated BUN, decreased Na/K ratio, weakness, elevated creatinine, shaking, and renal insufficiency. Occasionally, more serious reactions, including severe depression, hemorrhagic diarrhea, collapse, hypoadrenocortical crisis or adrenal necrosis/rupture may occur, and may result in death.

  
VETORYL® CAPSULES  
(trilostane)

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