Atopica™ for Cats
(cyclosporine oral solution) USP MODIFIED
100 mg/mL

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

Description:
Atopica™ for Cats (cyclosporine oral solution) USP MODIFIED is an oral formulation of cyclosporine that immediately forms a microemulsion in an aqueous environment. Cyclosporine, the active ingredient in Atopica for Cats, is a cyclic polypeptide, immune modulating agent consisting of 11 amino acids. It is produced as a metabolite by the fungal species Beauveria nivea.

Chemically, cyclosporine A is designated CyclosporinA-[25,3R,4R,5-hydroxy-4-methyl-2-methylenamino(6-octenoyl)-L-aminobutyrol-N-methylglycyl-L-norleucyl-L-valyl-N-methyl-L-leucyl-L-allyl-D-allyl-N-methyl-N-leucyl-N-leucyl-L-valyl]-L-valyl-

The structural formula is:

Indication:
ATOPICA for Cats is indicated for the control of feline allergic dermatitis as manifested by excoriations (including facial and neck), miliary dermatitis, eosinophilic plaques, and self-induced alopecia in cats at least 6 months of age and at least 3 lbs (1.4 kg) in body weight.

Dosing and Administration:
Always provide the Instructions for Assembling the Dispensing System and Preparing a Dose of ATOPICA for Cats and the Information for Cat Owners with prescription.

The initial dose of ATOPICA for Cats is 2.2 mg/kg/dose (0.7 mg/kg/day) as a single daily dose for a minimum of 4 to 6 weeks or until resolution of clinical signs. Following this initial daily treatment period, the dose of ATOPICA for Cats may be tapered by decreasing the frequency of dosing to every other day or twice weekly to maintain the desired therapeutic effect.

ATOPICA for Cats should be administered directly on a small amount of food or orally just after feeding. Whenever possible, ATOPICA for Cats should be administered on a consistent schedule with regard to meals and time of day. If a dose is missed, the next dose should be administered (without doubling) as soon as possible, but dosing should be no more frequent than once daily.

The dispensing system includes an oral dosing syringe graduated in 1.0 increments. To dose the cat, the syringe should be filled to the nearest 1.0 increment corresponding to the cat's body weight (round down to 0.1 if 0.1 to 0.4 lbs, round up 0.5 to 0.9 lbs). Each pound/gram on the syringe delivers a volume of 0.032 mL, providing 3.2 mg/kg. Do not rinse or cleanse the oral dosing syringe between uses. (See Instructions for Assembling the Dispensing System and Preparing a Dose of ATOPICA for Cats)

Contraindications:
Do not use in cats with a history of malignant disorders or suspected malignancy.

Do not use in cats infected with feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

Do not use in cats with a hypersensitivity to cyclosporine.

Warnings:
ATOPICA for Cats is a systemic immunosuppressant that may increase the susceptibility to infection and the development of neoplasia. One of 205 field study cats died of the effective form of feline infectious peritonitis. (See Adverse Reactions)

Persistent, progressive weight loss that resulted in hepatic lipidosis occurred in 2 of 205 cats on treatment with ATOPICA for Cats in field studies. Monitoring of body weight is recommended. (See Adverse Reactions)

Human Warnings:
Not for human use. Keep this and all drugs out of reach of children. For use only in cats.

Special precautions to be taken when administering ATOPICA for Cats:
Do not eat, drink, smoke, or use smokeless tobacco while handling ATOPICA for Cats.

Wash hands after administration.

In case of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice immediately and provide the package insert or the label to the physician.

People with known hypersensitivity to cyclosporine should avoid contact with ATOPICA for Cats.

Precautions:
The safety and effectiveness of ATOPICA for Cats has not been established in cats less than 6 months of age or less than 3 lbs (1.4 kg) body weight.

ATOPICA for Cats is not for use in breeding cats, pregnant or lactating queens.

Cats should be tested and found to be negative for FeLV and FIV infections before treatment.

As with any immunosuppressive agents, subclinical neoplastic and infectious conditions may occur.

ATOPICA for Cats is not for use with other immunosuppressive agents.

Cats that are seronegative for Toxoplasma gondii may be at risk of developing clinical toxoplasmosis if they become infected while under treatment, which can be fatal. In a controlled laboratory study, cats seronegative for T gondii were administered cyclosporine and subsequently infected with T. gondii, resulting in increased susceptibility to infection and subsequent expression of toxoplasmosis. Cat does not increase T gondii occult shedding (see Animal Safety).

Potential exposure of seroconvertive cats to T gondii should be avoided (e.g. keep indoors, avoid raw meat or scavenging).

In cases of clinical toxoplasmosis or other systemic illness, stop treatment with cyclosporine and initiate appropriate therapy.

ATOPICA for Cats may cause elevated levels of serum glucose, creatinine, and urea nitrogen. ATOPICA for Cats should be used with caution in cases with diabetes mellitus or renal insufficiency.

ATOPICA for Cats should be used with caution with drugs that affect the P-450 enzyme system.

Simultaneous administration of ATOPICA for Cats with drugs that suppress the P-450 enzyme system, such as azoles (e.g. ketoconazole), may lead to increased plasma levels of cyclosporine.

Treatment with ATOPICA for Cats may result in decreased immune response to vaccination. Naive cats may not develop protective titers during treatment (see Animal Safety).

ATOPICA for Cats was used in conjunction with various medications including a macrocyclic lactone and other antiparasitic agents, systemic antimicrobials, and topical skin and otic cleansers and antimicrobials.

Animal Safety:
For safety study, forty (20 male and 20 female) 6-month-old cats were randomized into 5 treatment groups and administered 0, 8, 16, 24, or 40 mg/kg/day ATOPICA for Cats (0, 1, 2, or 5X the maximum therapeutic dose). An intermittent interventricular conduction disturbance was noted on electrocardiogram in one 3X and one 5X treatment group cat at a dosage of 8 months of dosing. A 5X cat was euthanized after two weeks of treatment following a nearly-decline clinical condition including recumbency, inappetance, dehydration, and decreased body weight. A post-mortem examination showed a healing rib fracture and bone marrow hypocalcification characterized by a moderate reduction in the number of bone marrow elements from multiple lesions. Hematologic parameters drawn immediately prior to euthanasia for this cat did not reveal any abnormalities indicative of bone marrow hypocalcification. A 5X female cat presented with abdominal fibroadenomatous nodules during the study. Lymphoma of the kidneys and a mesenteric lymph node were present on necropsy in one 5X male, which is likely related to the immunosuppressive effects of cyclosporine treatment. Acted partial thromboplastin time (APTT) was prolonged in treated cats when compared to control cats.

ATOPICA for Cats was used in conjunction with various medications including a macrocyclic lactone and other antiparasitic agents, systemic antimicrobials, and topical skin and otic cleansers and antimicrobials.

Eighteen (18) cats were administered 0.5 mg/kg/day ATOPICA for Cats (2X the maximum therapeutic dose) in a 5-month study. Immunological responses to mitogens were unaffected by cyclosporine treatment.

ADVERSE EFFECTS:
Dose Assignments based on Clinical Assessment

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