

Mitotane

Lysodren® or o,p-DDD are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

.. Mitotane stops the growth of cells in the adrenal gland. In animals it is used to treat Cushing's Disease.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

.. Mitotane should not be used in animals that are allergic to it or to drugs like it.

.. Mitotane should not be used in pregnant animals.

.. Mitotane may alter the insulin requirements of diabetic patients. If your pet is diabetic, your veterinarian may need to readjust your pet's insulin doses.

.. Mitotane is eliminated from the body by the kidneys and liver; animals with severe liver or kidney disease should probably not receive mitotane.

.. Mitotane decreases the body's ability to handle stress. Your veterinarian will give you some prednisone or prednisolone to help your animal get through stressful periods (household guests, new babies, new pets, travel, injury, surgery, illness, etc.).

.. If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

.. The most common side effects are stomach upset, diarrhea and vomiting. Most animals will get more tired when the mitotane is starting to work.

.. Mitotane must be given in big doses until it starts to work in your dog. Most dogs will have an effect within 5-14 days after which your veterinarian will reduce the dose from giving it once or twice daily to giving it one to twice a week. Some animals take as little as 2 days to respond while others may take as much as 35 days. If your animal becomes unusually tired or weak, you should stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately so that he may determine the cause of the weakness and adjust the dose of mitotane if needed.

.. Some animals may develop liver problems from mitotane. If your animal stops eating, acts unusually tired, or has a yellowish color to its gums and the whites of its eyes, you should stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately.

.. Mitotane may alter the doses of drugs used to control epilepsy.

How Should It Be Given?

.. Mitotane should be given orally with an oily or fatty food. Mitotane liquids and powders sprinkled on food with a little vegetable oil are the best ways to give mitotane to your pet. But if your pet has been controlled on intact tablets for a long time, you should not start crushing the tablets or switch to a liquid form without talking to your veterinarian. Switching from tablets to oral liquids or powders will dramatically increase the amount of mitotane that gets into your pet's bloodstream.

.. You can tell if mitotane is starting to work when your animal drinks less, eats less, and urinates less (these things becoming normal). If you are not sure how much water your pet drinks, you should offer water in a measuring bowl or draw lines on the water bowl so that you can tell water intake has decreased.

.. Humans should avoid contact with mitotane and should wear gloves while handling it. Hands should always be washed after handling.

.. Pregnant women or women trying to become pregnant should not handle mitotane.

.. The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist, who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.

.. If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.

.. Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.

.. Cats do not usually receive mitotane.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

.. Mitotane should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.

.. Gloves should always be worn when handling this drug and hands washed afterwards.

.. Mitotane should not be allowed into the soil and water as it can be very damaging to the environment. Any leftover drug should be returned to your veterinarian or pharmacist for proper disposal.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook