

Trilostane

Vetoryl® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Trilostane is used for treating hyperadrenocorticism (HAC) in dogs and cats, also known as Cushing's disease. It reduces synthesis of several hormones made by the adrenal gland which are too high when a patient suffers from Cushing's disease.
- While the mitotane versus trilostane debate for medical treatment of canine pituitary-dependent HAC continues, either drug can be safe and effective, but both require diligent monitoring and client education. Studies have shown that Trilostane is effective at doses lower than found on the label.
- Trilostane may also be useful in treating Pomeranians with Alopecia X and Alaskan malamutes with adult-onset alopecia.

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

- Trilostane cannot be given to animals allergic to it. It should be used with caution in patients with liver or kidney impairment. Do not use in pregnant dogs.
- When used for controlling clinical signs of Cushing's in dogs with adrenal tumors, trilostane will not shrink the tumor and adrenal glands may actually increase in size during treatment.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Trilostane appears to be relatively well tolerated in dogs, but up to 63% of treated dogs can develop lethargy, mildly low sodium and potassium, vomiting, diarrhea and poor appetite during the first few days of therapy, due to rapid drop in hormone levels. These effects are usually relatively mild and self-limiting. Withholding the drug for a few days and then giving it every other day for a week may alleviate lethargy and vomiting. Although adrenal suppression caused by trilostane is reversible in most cases, rarely adrenal necrosis and death have occurred in dogs.
- In cats with hyperadrenocorticism, adverse effects associated with trilostane therapy have included lethargy, anorexia and dulled mentation.
- In one study of trilostane given to 20 horses with equine Cushing's, no adverse effects were noted.

How Should It Be Given?

- Trilostane is usually given once or twice daily. If there are side effects or poor control due to giving once daily, splitting that dose into two given twice daily can lessen side effects and increase effectiveness.
- 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.
- The following drug interactions have either been reported or are theoretical in humans or animals receiving Trilostane.
 - **ACE inhibitors** (e.g., **benazepril, enalapril**): Could increase risk for high potassium.
 - **Aminoglutethimide**: May potentiate the effects of trilostane and lead to low adrenal function (Addison's disease).

- **Ketoconazole:** May potentiate the effects of trilostane and lead to Addison's disease.
- **Mitotane:** May potentiate the effects of trilostane and lead to hypoadrenocorticism.
- **Potassium-sparing Diuretics** (e.g., **spironolactone**): Could increase risk for high potassium.
- **Potassium-Supplements; High Potassium Foods:** Could increase risk for high potassium.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Give exactly the way veterinarian has prescribed, don't give more or stop the drug unless you first talk to your veterinarian.
- Give in the morning with food, unless otherwise directed by veterinarian.
- Trilostane capsules do not require any special safety handling precautions. The manufacturer states: 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. Clients should report any adverse effects to the veterinarian. Contact veterinarian immediately if dog stops eating or drinking, or becomes ill.
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Trilostane is a treatment for the condition and not a cure; improvements occur gradually and are difficult to see on a daily basis.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook