

Medicine Information Sheet

All medicines may cause unwanted side effects. Should you be worried about changes in the behavior of your pet or the eye you should contact us as soon as possible for advice.

Acetazolamide (125mg, 250mg tablets) and Methazolamide (25mg, 50mg tablets):

Type: carbonic anhydrase inhibitor. Action: reduces the production of fluid in the eye. Typical use: glaucoma. Side-effects: panting (metabolic acidosis), electrolyte imbalances, low blood potassium.

Acetylcysteine (5% eye drops): Type: calcium and zinc chelator. Action: binds minerals, stops enzymes, dissolves calcium, dissolve mucous. Typical use: corneal ulcers, dry eye, corneal calcium deposits, corneal cholesterol-calcium deposits. Side effects: none known, sulphur smell. Contraindication: none-known.

Atropine (0.5% and 1% eye drops): Type: anti-cholinergic. Action: dilates pupil. Typical use: dilates pupil in uveitis, dilates pupil after intraocular surgery. Side-effects: if used often in horses may predispose to colic, increased salivation due to bitter taste (especially in cats).

Azathioprine (50mg): Type: anti-metabolite. Action: immunosuppression. Typical use: severe uveitis (VKH-like), Episcleritis. Side-effects: bone marrow suppression, anemia, low white blood cell count. Regular blood testing recommended.

Cyclosporine (0.02%, 1% and 2% eye drops): Type: immunomodulation. Action: increases tear production and controls immune-mediated diseases. Typical use: Dry Eye Disease, keratitis, blepharitis. Side effects: anti-fungal, may increase risk of development of cancers. **Only compounded.**

Demecarium bromide (0.125% eye drops): Type: miotic. Action: increases outflow of fluid in the eye. Typical use: postpones onset of glaucoma in dogs. Side-effects: none known in the dog. **Only compounded.**

Gentamycin or Tobramycin (0.3% eye drops): Type: antibiotic. Action: broad spectrum, may not cover certain gram-positive bacteria. Typical use: corneal ulceration, to prevent infections after intraocular surgery. Side-effects: may predispose corneal ulcers (in horses) to fungal infection.

Megestrol acetate (20mg tablets): Type: female hormone. Action: stops enzymes, anti-inflammatory. Typical use: eosinophilic keratitis in cats. Side effects: long term use associated with hormonal imbalances including diabetes mellitus. Regular blood testing recommended.

Natamycin (5% eye drops): Type: anti-fungal. Action: anti-fungal. Typical use: fungal corneal infection (most commonly in horses). Side-effects: no known associated with topical use on the eye.

Ofloxacin (0.3% eye drops): Type: antibiotic. Action broad spectrum antibiotic may not cover certain gram-negative bacteria and some streptococcus sp. Typical use: corneal ulceration, to prevent infection after intraocular surgery. Side-effects: may predispose corneal ulcers (in horses) to fungal infection.

Prednisone (5, 10 and 20mg tablets): Type: corticosteroid. Action: anti-inflammatory. Typical use: inflammation (uveitis), immune-mediated diseases. Side effects: increased urination, increased appetite, increased thirst, may cause hormonal imbalance if used long term. Contraindication: diabetes mellitus.

Prednisolone acetate (1% eye drops): Type: corticosteroid. Action: anti-inflammatory. Typical use: inflammation (uveitis, keratitis, conjunctivitis, episcleritis), after intraocular surgery (glaucoma, cataract). Side-effects: if the eye is dry may increase the risk of development of corneal ulceration, may increase the risk of developing cholesterol deposits in the cornea.

Tacrolimus (0.02% or 0.03% eye drops): Type immunomodulation. Action: increases tear production and controls immune-mediated diseases. Typical use: Dry eye, pigmentary keratitis, keratitis, blepharitis. Side effects: may increase the risk of developing cancers. **Only compounded.**

Xalatan and Travatan (eye drops): Type: Prostaglandin. Action: increases the outflow of fluid from the eye, constricts pupil. Typical use: glaucoma, lens luxation (lens posterior to iris). Side-effects: none known in the dog. May result in mild conjunctival irritation in people.

Compounding: Certain eye drops are only made and sold by veterinary compounding pharmacies: cyclosporine, tacrolimus, demecarium bromide.

- Stokes Pharmacy, Mount Laurel, NJ, 1800-754-5222, www.stokespharmacy.com (cyclosporine, tacrolimus, demecarium bromide, natamycin).
- Wedgewood Pharmacy, www.wedgewoodpharmacy.com (cyclosporine, tacrolimus, demecarium bromide).
- Meds4vets, www.meds4vets.com (cyclosporine, tacrolimus).
- Rosvold Pharmacy, Cinnaminson, NJ. 856-829-4877 (cyclosporine).