Atopica™ for Cats Oral Solution (Cats)
Generic Name:
Cyclosporine - Oral Solution (Cats)
CPN: 1231106-6300124-31652
General Description:
Cyclosporine is a drug that suppresses the immune system and is used to treat immune-mediated diseases that often affect the skin. This medication selectively acts on the immune cells involved in exaggerated immune responses and reduces the inflammation and itching associated with dermatitis. It is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as an oral solution.
What is this drug?

- An immunosuppressive agent
- Given by mouth

Reasons for prescribing:

- Primarily used to manage allergic or atopic dermatitis
- May be used to manage immune-mediated disorders (e.g. immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA), immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (IMTP), asthma, chronic stomatitis, inflammatory bowel disease)

Animal Precautions:

- This medication is labeled for use in cats and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian
- **Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian**
- Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:
    - Underlying cancer
    - Diabetes mellitus, kidney disease and liver disease
    - Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
    - Animals that will require allergic skin testing in the near future
- Safety has not been established in:
    - Cats weighing less than 3 lb (1.4 kg)
    - Pets less than 6 months of age
    - Pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

Directions:
Read and follow the prescription label carefully. Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed. Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs.
Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy. This medication may be a lifelong treatment for your pet's condition.
Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Cats should be feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) negative.
Your veterinarian will perform clinical assessments at regular intervals and may adjust the frequency of administration according to the clinical response obtained. Dose adjustment should only be carried out in consultation with your veterinarian.
For cats, the oral **Cyclosporine** solution can be given mixed with food or directly into your pet's mouth after feeding. If given with food, the solution should be mixed with a small amount of food, preferably after a sufficient period of fasting to ensure your cat eats it completely. When given directly into the mouth, insert the oral dosing syringe into the cat's mouth and deliver the entire dose, just after feeding.
This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days, however, may require 4-6 weeks before full improvement is noted in your pet's clinic signs.
Ideally give this medication on a consistent schedule at the same time every day.
Call ahead for refills.
Cyclosporine Oral Solution for Cats:
Instructions for Assembling the Dispensing System and Preparing a Dose
The dispensing system consists of 4 parts:
A bottle containing the medicine, with rubber stopper and a screw cap to close the bottle after use.
A plastic adapter with dip tube that you will push into the neck of the bottle. The adapter must always remain in the bottle after first use.
An oral dosing syringe that fits into the top of the plastic adapter to withdraw the prescribed dose of medicine from the bottle.
A plastic vial containing the plastic adapter and oral dosing syringe. Save the plastic vial to store the oral dosing syringe between each use.
Fitting the Plastic Adapter into the New Bottle of Medicine

Remove and save the screw cap.
Remove and dispose of the rubber stopper.
Hold the open bottle upright on a table and push the plastic adapter firmly into the neck of the bottle as far as you can, then close the bottle with the screw cap.
To provide a child-resistant closure, push down on the child-resistant screw cap as you turn it.
Preparing a Dose of Medicine
Push and turn the child-resistant screw cap to open the bottle. Note: Always close the bottle with the child-resistant screw cap after use.
Check that the plunger of the oral dosing syringe is pushed all the way down.
Keep the bottle upright and insert the oral dosing syringe firmly into the plastic adapter.
Slowly pull the plunger up so that the oral dosing syringe fills with the medicine.
Expel any large bubbles by pushing and pulling the plunger a few times. The presence of a few tiny bubbles is not important for dosing accuracy.
Withdraw the dose of medicine prescribed by your veterinarian. The scale on the oral dosing syringe corresponds to the cat's body weight. Note: If the prescribed dose is more than the maximum volume marked on the oral dosing syringe, you will need to reload the syringe to withdraw the full dose.

Remove the oral dosing syringe by gently twisting it out of the plastic adapter. You can now place the oral dosing syringe over a small amount of food or introduce the syringe in the mouth of your cat and push the medicine out of the syringe. **Do not rinse or clean the oral dosing syringe between uses**. Store the oral dosing syringe in the plastic tube between each use.

What if a dose is missed?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can, but do not give more than one dose/day. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

What to tell/ask your veterinarian before giving this medication?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- When will your pet need to be rechecked
- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species
- What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

Storage and Warnings:

There are multiple brands of liquid **Cyclosporine** but they are not the same strength and therefore cannot be substituted for each other.

Long-term storage in some plastics can cause inactivation of the drug. Store in the original container at room temperature between 59 and 77°F. Protect from freezing and do not refrigerate. Once oral liquids are opened, use contents within two months for the 5 mL container and 11 weeks for the 17 mL container. Close the bottle with the child-resistant screw cap after use. To provide a child-resistant closure, push down on the child-resistant screw cap as you turn it.

People should not take this medication. **Cyclosporine** is considered hazardous. Do not eat, drink, smoke or use smokeless tobacco while handling this product. Consider wearing gloves for administration and wash hands immediately after handling. Pregnant owners and people with known hypersensitivity to **Cyclosporine** should avoid contact with this medication.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product. Seek medical advice and show the package insert or the label to the physician.

Potential side effects:

- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing anorexia, inappetence, increased salivation, lethargy, altered glucose metabolism, vomiting, diarrhea, soft stool and weight loss
- Rapid weight loss in cats can lead to liver concerns (hepatic lipidosis) leading to liver disease and yellowing or jaundiced skin
- Cats that have not been exposed to *Toxoplasma gondii* may be at risk of developing clinical toxoplasmosis if they become infected while under treatment with **Cyclosporine**. Cats can become infected with *Toxoplasma gondii*, a protozoal parasite, from eating raw meat. To avoid infection and serious illness while taking this medication, cats should be kept indoors, avoid feeding raw meat and do not allow your cat to hunt.
- This medication can lead to dermatological changes including overgrowth of the gums, excessive shedding and papillomatosis
- This medication causes immunosuppression leading to an increased risk for bacterial and fungal infections which can impact the gastrointestinal, urinary and respiratory systems (contact your veterinarian if your pet has a fever (>103°F), painful urination, fatigue, sneezing, coughing or runny eyes)
- This medication causes immunosuppression and can increase the susceptibility to tumor development
- This medication can impact the immune response to certain vaccinations
- This moderate-acting medication should stop working in a few days, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

Can this drug be given with other medications?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Cyclosporine** in conjunction with: acetazolamide, acyclovir, allopurinol, alprazolam, aminoglycosides, amiodarone, amphotericin, androgens, angiotensin receptor blockers (telmisartan), angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (benazepril, enalapril), azole antifungals (fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), azathioprine, bromocriptine, calcium channel blockers (diltiazem, verapamil, amlodipine), carvedilol, ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, cimetidine, cisapride, clonidine, colchicine, corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide, darbepoetin, digoxin, doxorubicin, estrogen, fatty acids, fluroquinolones (enrofloxacin, marbofloxacin), famotidine, fentanyl, fluvoxamine, furosemide, glipizide, griseofulvin, hydrochlorothiazide, ivermectin, leflunomide, macrolide antibiotics (azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin), medroxyprogesterone, melphalan, methotrexate, metoclopramide, metronidazole, midazolam, mitotane, morphine, mycophenolate, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, oclacitinib, octreotide, omeprazole, sertraline, phenobarbital, phenytoin, potassium supplements, potassium-sparing diuretics (triamterene), probucol, rifampin, spironolactone, St. John's wort, sulfadiazine, sulfamethoxazole, sulfasalazine, terbinafine, trimethoprim, vancomycin, vincristine, some vaccinations and warfarin.
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Cyclosporine**
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

What should I do if I know of or suspect there has been an overdose?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

What else should I know?

Notify your veterinarian if your pet's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment. Contact your veterinarian immediately if there are any signs of serious illness, inappetence, weight loss or a fever. It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to **Cyclosporine** at regular checkups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving **Cyclosporine.**

As with all prescribed medicines, **Cyclosporine** should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.
This is just a summary of information about **Cyclosporine**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Cyclosporine** or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.