Plumb's Drug Handouts

Cyclosporine, Ophthalmic

(*sye-klo-**spore**-in*)

Key Information

- Eye medication used to treat conditions such as dry eye.
- Helps control signs but is not a cure. Lifelong treatment is usually required.
- Wash your hands before applying. To prevent contamination, do not touch the dropper tip with your hands or allow it to touch your animal's eye or any other surface.
- It may take a few weeks to notice an improvement in your animal's signs.
- Common side effects include eye redness, irritation, or watering. Eyelid spasms and loss of hair around the eye are also possible.
- If you are applying more than one eye medication, wait 5 minutes between each medication. Apply eye drops before eye ointments.

Note: The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

Description	• Immune suppressant for the eye
	• Available as an eye ointment
	  - Also available as eye drops for human use but not often used in veterinary patients.
	  - Eye drops may also be available from compounding pharmacies.

Other common names	*Cequa*, *Optimmune*, *Restasis*
Uses	FDA-approved uses in animals: • Treatment of dry eye (*keratoconjunctivitis sicca*; KCS) in dogs • Treatment of chronic superficial keratitis (CSK), or *pannus*, in dogs At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use), such as for the treatment of: • Dry eye and eosinophilic keratitis in cats • Other eye disorders caused by an overactive immune system
Before this medication is given	No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian: • Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking • Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past • Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past • The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing
Warnings for animals	Do **not** use in animals: • That are allergic to cyclosporine • That have fungal or viral eye infections Use with **caution** in animals: • Receiving other drugs that suppress the immune system Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication.
Warnings for humans	• Avoid skin and eye contact with this medication. Consider wearing gloves while applying. • Wash your hands immediately after handling this medication.
How do I give this medication?	• Wash your hands before administration. • Do not touch the applicator tip with your hands. Do not allow the applicator tip to touch your animal's eye or any other surface.

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	• Apply to the affected eye(s) as directed by your veterinarian. • If you are administering more than one eye medication to your animal, wait 5 minutes between each medication. Apply eye drops before applying eye ointments. *Apply exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.*
Side effects	**Common** – contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time: • Mild irritation, itching, or redness of the eyes • Eye watering or squinting • Eyelid spasm • Loss of hair around the eye **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs: • Difficulty breathing or noisy breathing. This may be a sign of a severe allergic reaction.
How will I know it's working?	• This medication needs to be given consistently for several weeks before it reaches full effect. However, side effects can occur right away. • You should see a gradual improvement in your animal's signs as the medication becomes fully effective. *Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.*
How long will the medication effects last?	This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose.
How long do I give it for?	This medication can be given for different lengths of time but is often a lifelong medication. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. Make sure to refill the prescription to avoid interruptions in treatment.
Overdose	Overdoses are unlikely when used in the eye, but side effects or toxicity can occur if the medication is eaten. If this happens, contact your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center for further advice (consultation fee applies): • **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**: (888) 426-4435 • **Pet Poison Helpline**: (855) 764-7661 *Have the product or label with you if possible.*
Missed dose	In most cases, if you miss a dose: • Apply it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule. If it is close to the time for the next dose: • Skip the missed dose. • Apply the next dose at the next scheduled time. • Continue the regular dosing schedule. *If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up or give extra doses.*
Storage	• Store in the original container at room temperature. • Keep out of reach of children and animals.
Disposal	Do **not** flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. Options for disposing of unused or expired medications include: • Drug take-back sites: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities. • Home disposal: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal it in a plastic bag, and throw it away in the trash. *Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.*

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Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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