

Glossary

Table Description: Common terminology used when discussing Addison's Disease

Term	Definition
'Lytes	(see "Electrolytes")
ACTH (Adrenocorticotropic Hormone)	The definitive diagnostic test for Addison's Disease -see http://www.labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/acth/glance.html
Adrenal Gland (an overview)	The adrenal glands consist of a center core (the medulla), surrounded by three layers of the cortex. The outer layer of the adrenal cortex produces aldosterone (mineralocorticoids), the middle layer produces cortisol (glucocorticoids) and the bottom/third layer -closest to the medulla- produces sex hormones. The medulla isn't affected by Addison's, but it's good to point out that that's where epinephrine is produced for the "fight or flight" reaction! (see http://arbl.cvmbs.colostate.edu/hbooks/pathphys/endocrine/adrenal/histo_overview.html)
Aldosterone	Mineralocorticoid hormone produced by the adrenal glands for the maintenance of electrolyte levels (sodium, potassium and chloride) in the body
Atypical Addison's	Deficient in cortisol only. The zones of the adrenal glands that manufacture cortisol are no longer functioning.
Compounded Florinef	For efficient and cost-effective treatment of Primary Canine Addison's Disease, a "compounding pharmacist" can prepare an entire day's dose of generic fludrocortisone acetate in one (or two) capsules. For a compounding pharmacist near you, visit: http://www.iacprx.org/referral_service/index.html
Cortisol	Corticosteroid hormone produced by the adrenal glands for metabolism of fat, protein and carbohydrates, production of red blood cells, stress response, maintaining blood pressure, reducing inflammation, etc.
Cushing's Disease	"Opposite" of Addison's -the adrenal glands OVERproduce cortisol in a dog with Cushing's Disease. Note: a dog with Addison's Disease that's given too much prednisone will present the same symptoms as a dog with Cushing's Disease.
DOCP	Desoxycorticosterone pivalate (see "Percorten-v")
Electrolytes	Specifically, the mineral elements in the blood: sodium (Na), potassium (K) and chloride (Cl)
Florinef	Fludrocortisone acetate, supplied in 0.1 mg tablets –this is a human medication that is prescribed "off-label" for the treatment of Primary Canine Addison's Disease at a starting dosage of 0.1 mg per 10 pounds of body weight. Florinef is a mineralocorticoid replacement that also contains a small glucocorticoid component. For complete dosing information, visit: http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/40204.htm
Glucocorticoid	Commonly used daily (cortisol replacement) medication options for dogs with Atypical or Primary Addison's Disease include: prednisone, prednisolone, "Medrol," hydrocortisone

Hypoadrenocorticism Addison's Disease

Iatrogenic	Caused by medication (ex: overmedicating a dog for Cushings Disease can cause the adrenals to shut down and the dog will become an "iatrogenic Addisonian")
Idiopathic	Of unknown cause
Mineralocorticoid	Aldosterone (for management/balance of electrolytes: sodium, potassium and chloride). Medication options for mineralocorticoid replacement in dogs with Primary Canine Addison's Disease include Percorten-v (DOCP), an injectable medication that's administered every 21-30 days -or- Florinef, a daily oral medication.
NSAIDS	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs, the same class as such common over-the-counter remedies as Advil (Ibuprofen), Aleve (Naproxen), Orudis (ketoprofen), and Aspirin. The chief use for such drugs in the dog has been pain relief, usually joint pain or post-surgical pain relief. NSAIDS should not be used in dogs being treated for Addison's Disease! (see http://www.marvistavet.com/html/rimadyl.html for details!)
Novartis	Manufacturer of Percorten-v (for "Novartis US" go to http://www.percorten.novartis.us/ for "Novartis Canada" go to http://www.ah.ca.novartis.com/)
PD/PU	PD (polydipsia): excessive or abnormal thirst; PU (polyuria): excessive urination
Percorten-v	Injectable desoxycorticosterone pivalate (DOCP) –manufactured by Novartis. Percorten-v is a mineralocorticoid replacement used in the treatment of Primary Canine Addison's Disease. Supplied in 4 ml vials, containing 100 mg of DOCP (25 mg/ml). For product information, visit: http://www.percorten.novartis.us/product_label/en/index.shtml
Primary/Typical Addison's	Deficient in cortisol AND aldosterone. The zones of the adrenal glands that manufacture cortisol AND aldosterone are no longer functioning.
Ratio (of potassium to sodium)	The ratio of sodium (Na) to potassium (K) is determined by dividing the potassium value/number into the sodium value/number. (i.e., Na: 150, K: 4.7 = Ratio 32.4) The normal or "reference range" for this ratio should be between 27:1 and 40:1.
Rimadyl	(see "NSAIDS")
Secondary Addison's	Adrenal glands are normal, but the pituitary does not signal a need for cortisol. "Secondary adrenal insufficiency is due to a decrease in the production of the pituitary hormone ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone). ACTH is a pituitary messenger -- it tells the adrenal cortex to produce cortisol. If there is insufficient ACTH -- due to pituitary damage, a pituitary tumor, or some other cause -- then cortisol production is not stimulated. Secondary adrenal insufficiency can also arise when corticosteroid therapy (such as prednisone...) is abruptly halted. These treatments suppress natural cortisol production and it can take several weeks or months for normal production to resume. With secondary adrenal insufficiency aldosterone production is usually not affected." (www.labtestsonline.com)