

Monitoring Vetoryl Treatment, ACTH Stim Test Flowchart

Day 1

Start Vetoryl (trilostane)

Give with food

Starting with a low dose is recommended. See dosing info in article, [All About Vetoryl](#).



Day 10 to 14

Give morning capsule with food

ACTH stim test is conducted 4 to 6 hours (or 2 to 4 hours) after morning capsule, along with physical exam and serum biochemistry with electrolytes



Post-ACTH cortisol

< 1.45 ug/dL

and clinically well



STOP Vetoryl for approximately 7 days

Restart at lower dose and repeat ACTH stim test 10-14 days after restarting lower dose

Post-ACTH cortisol

> 1.45 ug/dL

and clinically well



Continue treatment at current dose. It is not recommended to increase dose yet, even if cortisol is more than 9.1 ug/dL. Cortisol levels can continue to fall for 30 days or more.

Showing clinical signs consistent with:

1. Corticosteroid withdrawal syndrome (“relative” cortisol deficiency characterized by weakness, lethargy, stiff gait, anorexia, fever during first 10 days of therapy)
2. Hypoadrenocorticism (e.g., anorexia, lethargy/depression, weakness, shaking/shivering, vomiting, diarrhea, collapse)



STOP VETORYL TREATMENT

Confirm whether clinical signs are due to low cortisol with ACTH stim test and analysis of electrolytes (particularly sodium and potassium) and treat as required.

Day 30

Give morning capsule with food

ACTH stim test is conducted 4 to 6 hours (or 2 to 4 hours) after morning capsule, along with physical exam and serum biochemistry with electrolytes



Consider the degree of clinical improvement when evaluating results of ACTH stim test



Significant improvement in clinical signs

Clinical signs not fully controlled



Post-ACTH
cortisol < 1.45
ug/dL

Post-ACTH
cortisol
1.45 to 5.4
ug/dL

Post-ACTH
cortisol
5.4 to 9.1 ug/dL

Post-ACTH
cortisol > 9.1
ug/dL

If clinical signs are not fully controlled for a full 24 hours, twice daily dosing or dosage increase may be needed. To change to twice daily dosing, split the current daily dose into two doses.

Post ACTH
cortisol > 5.4
ug/dL



STOP Vetoryl for approximately 7 days

Restart at lower dose, and repeat ACTH stim test 10-14 days after restarting

Continue treatment at current dose

Continue treatment at current dose but carefully monitor symptoms for recurrence

Continue at current dose and recheck cortisol in 1-3 months OR increase dose

Increase dose and recheck ACTH stim 10-14 days later

Important Details to Remember

Vetoryl should be administered with food, since food enhances the absorption of the medication.

Once treatment with Vetoryl has been initiated, blood tests should be taken for biochemistry (including electrolytes) and an ACTH stimulation test to monitor cortisol levels 14 days later, 30 days later, 90 days later and every 3 months thereafter.

Monitoring is important to ensure cortisol levels aren't falling too low. Some dogs may need lower doses of Vetoryl after being on treatment for a period of time. Hypoadrenocorticism (Addisonian crisis) can occur when the body has insufficient amounts of cortisol.

According to the manufacturer of Vetoryl, a positive response to the medication will manifest as an improvement in clinical signs and post-ACTH cortisol concentration between 1.45 and 9.1 ug/dL.

The manufacturer recommends stopping the medication and restarting at a lower dose if post-ACTH cortisol is below 1.45 ug/dL. However, some veterinarians will stop Vetoryl when cortisol is below 2.0 ug/dL.

On the morning of ACTH stimulation testing, Vetoryl should be given with food.

See also

[All About Vetoryl \(trilostane\)](#)

[When to Stop Vetoryl \(trilostane\): general guidelines](#)