



The Itch Clinic

Allergy, Dermatology, and Otolaryngology

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DOCTOR UPDATES IN DERMATOLOGY: HUGE CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Due to the increasing liability veterinarians are facing (legally and ethically), the long-term use of steroids or Apoquel for the treatment of allergy should be stopped.

1. Steroids and Apoquel should only be used for acute flare management (2 weeks or less)
 - a. If longer treatment is needed:
 - i. **Have the owner sign an informed consent form.**
 - ii. READ THE APOQUEL LABEL!!!
 - iii. Check lab-work every 6 – 12 months.
 - iv. Monitor for tumors and lymphadenopathy.
 - v. Monitor for pneumonia and Demodicosis.
 - vi. DO NOT USE IF MRSA INFECTION IS A RISK.

Cytopoint is finally available and should be the first treatment option for the control of itch and allergies.

1. Cytopoint is a monoclonal antibody with almost NO adverse effects.
2. Cytopoint usually controls symptoms for 4-8 weeks with minimal additional therapy.
3. DO NOT HEAT OR FREEZE THE PRODUCT.
4. Due to the multiple sizes and dose options, inventory can be frustrating.

Allergy skin testing and Desensitization vaccine is the next best, safest, and economical treatment option for allergies.

1. If Cytopoint fails or becomes too expensive, plan for allergy skin testing.
2. Allergy skin testing is 30% more successful than blood testing,
 - a. Testing the target tissue (skin) is ideal.
 - b. Including ALL reacting allergens increases efficacy. Most of the Itch Clinic Vaccines contain 25-35 allergens in the recipe.
 - c. Giving a lower dose more often than company recommendations increases the efficacy of the desensitizing vaccine.
 - d. IF MRSA IS A RISK FACTOR, THE VACCINE SHOULD CONTAIN A STAPHYLOCOCCUS EXTRACT TO BOOST THE IMMUNE PROTECTION.

If Cytopoint or Allergy Skin testing are not successful or not a reasonable treatment option, home cooked food trials or Atopica are reasonable and safe treatments.

1. Due to the price and recent documentation of food contamination, prescription diets are less ideal. If a true food trial is needed, home cook diets provide the best diagnostics.
2. Atopica remains a safe and effective treatment for atopy. Unless the current rebates are used Atopica can be expensive.

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4 locations in East Tennessee

(800) 621-1370

www.itchnot.com

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