

GLUCOCORTICOIDS FOR ANIMALS TREATMENT. REVIEW

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Summary. In this review the information about glucocorticoids, the usage synthetic hormone for prophylaxis and treatment of animal is summarized. Glucocorticoids are critical to physiological function due to their regulatory effects on carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism. In addition, glucocorticoids have a major regulatory role in inflammation and the immune response and are one of the most widely used pharmacological agents in medicine and veterinary. They are used extensively for their anti-inflammatory properties in the treatment of inflammatory and immune diseases. This is particularly evident when they administered at therapeutic doses, but also is important to normal immune responses. As a consequence, glucocorticoids are widely used as drugs to treat inflammatory conditions such as arthritis or dermatitis, and as adjuvant therapy for conditions such as autoimmune diseases.

A variety of synthetic glucocorticoids, some far more potent than cortisol, have been created for therapeutic use. They differ in the pharmacokinetics (absorption factor, half-life, volume of distribution, clearance) and in pharmacodynamics (for example the capacity of mineralocorticoid activity). Currently, glucocorticoids are available in numerous formulations: oral, topical, ophthalmic solutions and ointments, inhalers, nasal formulations, parenteral and rectal preparations. Adverse effects are generally associated with long-term administration of these drugs, especially if given at high dosages or not on an alternate day regimen.

Key words: animals, glucocorticoids, inflammation, allergic diseases, treatment.