



**INTERNAL MEDICINE:
TREATING ADDISON'S DISEASE WITH DOCP**

Experts:

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Dr. Elie received his DVM from Michigan State University and completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kuehn also received his DVM from Michigan State University and pursued his MS at Purdue University. He completed his internship at Louisiana State University and his residency at Purdue University. Both doctors treat patients at MVS' locations in Southfield and Auburn Hills.

Treatment tip

Patients receiving treatment with DOCP can often receive it less frequently than the manufacturer's label recommendations (every 21 days). It is known that the duration of action in many patients may be longer than 21 days. It is more the exception to the rule when a patient needs the DOCP more frequently than once a month. In fact, some patients can be managed with DOCP injections every three to four months.

Example protocol

Initial check of serum electrolytes at three weeks. If normal, then delay the DOCP injection one week and recheck electrolytes. If at week four either sodium or chloride is low or potassium elevated, injections every three weeks is recommended. If the electrolyte levels are normal, than monthly injections can be recommended or continue the approach of delaying injections by 3-7 days with each subsequent visit until the sodium or chloride begin to decline or the potassium begins to climb.

Client/patient benefit

Less frequent DOCP dosing is comparatively less expensive than daily Florinef. Furthermore Florinef may produce Cushing's effects. DOCP has no corticosteroid activity. Low dose prednisone (usually effective @ 0.1 mg/kg SID) is all that is required for patients on DOCP.

Questions?

Drs. Marc Elie and Ned Kuehn are full-time staff members at Michigan Veterinary Specialists. They are available for questions and consultations on internal medicine conditions and are on-call, along with their colleagues in medicine, for internal medicine cases requiring urgent intervention. Contact them at (248) 354-6660 with questions.

LOCATIONS

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