

Treatments for Atopic Dermatitis for dogs.

Dr. Alice Jeromin, pharmacist, board-certified veterinary dermatologist

1. Weekly allergy injections composed of what the dog is allergic to. Allergies are determined by skin and/or blood testing. Injections are given under the skin by the owner weekly. 70% success rate and can take 6-12 months to become effective. For some reason in yellow Labrador retrievers, the injections take up to 2 years to become effective.
2. Sublingual allergy drops—composed of what the dog is allergic to (skin and/or blood testing to determine). Drops are given in the mouth twice daily. 50% success rate, takes 3-6 months to become effective.
3. Atopica—we use it at a low dose—less expensive for the owner and most dogs respond to a low dose. Can take 2-4 weeks to become effective. This drug has been out for 15 years and used in 10 million doses so side effects are known and minimal if any when used at a low dose.
4. Apoquel—quick acting but short acting. Dogs need baseline blood work before using and again in 30-60 days after on the drug as it's FDA approved for allergy in the dog but relatively new.
5. (Cytoint)-Monoclonal antibody injection. Can last for 4 weeks and sometimes up to 8 weeks. Some dogs respond, some do not. Cost varies with the size of the dog.

The above information is a quick summary of the treatments available for inhalant allergy in the dog. None of the above treatments involve steroids. There is no valid skin or blood test for food allergy—that diagnosis is made by using a PRESCRIPTION or cooked diet exclusively for 8-10 weeks without any other foods, treats, bones, etc. Please feel free to ask for further information on any of the above!