



# Addison's disease

How it affects your dog



## ZYCORTAL<sup>®</sup>

HIDDEN DISEASE. VISIBLE ANSWER.



## What is Addison's disease?

Addison's disease is a condition in which a dog's adrenal glands are not working as well as they should.

Dogs with the disease have lower than normal levels of glucocorticoids (cortisol) and mineralocorticoids (aldosterone). These hormones are vital to keep your dog's body functioning normally.



## What causes Addison's disease?

The adrenal glands are two small glands that sit next to the kidneys. They produce essential hormones including cortisol and aldosterone. In dogs with Addison's disease the adrenal glands have been damaged and are not working as well as they should. Damaged adrenal glands can be a result of a number of things: hereditary auto-immune disease, tumours, injury, prescription drug side effects, infection or inflammation.

The damaged adrenal glands do not produce enough cortisol and aldosterone, and sometimes none at all.

These hormones are vital to regulate many bodily functions such as metabolism, blood pressure, hydration and response to stress.

When a dog doesn't produce enough of these hormones it will become unwell and if the levels become very low it can be life-threatening.







## Recognising the signs of Addison's disease

Addison's disease is rare but the symptoms are similar to diseases that are a lot more common. Symptoms are often vague, waxing and waning which result in the disease being difficult to diagnose.

Diagnosis is not always straightforward. It takes time and as Addison's disease is often mistaken for other diseases with similar symptoms, you will need to give your veterinarian a thorough history of your dog's health and onset of symptoms.

The more noticeable signs of Addison's disease are:

- Loss of appetite
  - Lethargy
  - Weakness
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhoea
  - Weight loss
  - Shivering, tremors and or muscle stiffness
  - Depression
  - Dehydration
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## Diagnosing Addison's disease

Your veterinary surgeon will initially suspect Addison's disease based on the clinical signs your dog is showing. They will perform a thorough physical examination of your dog, and your dog will need to undergo a series of blood tests to confirm diagnosis.

## The Importance of Treatment

Treating your Addison's dog is simple and consists of hormone replacement.

Treatment will improve your dog's quality of life, and enable them to live as long and as normal a life as a disease-free dog. However, if left untreated Addison's disease can be a potentially fatal disease.

## Treating with Zycortal

- Your dog will need to visit the vet around once a month to receive an injection of Zycortal.  
Zycortal is a long-term medication which replaces the missing aldosterone, the hormone responsible for maintaining hydration and blood pressure.
- Your dog will also need a daily tablet to help replace the cortisol, normally secreted by the adrenal gland.  
You will be asked to give this to your dog at home.

It is important that you follow the instructions given by your veterinary surgeon and attend all arranged appointments for follow up blood tests and injections, as your veterinarian may need to amend your dog's dose.





## Continuous care

There is no cure for Addison's disease but treatment with Zycortal will help to manage the symptoms. Your dog will need to be treated for the rest of its life.

Monitoring is important and regular checks performed by your veterinary surgeon will ensure your dog continues to get the best care.

Now that your dog is receiving Zycortal it will live a normal and healthy life.

**If you notice any changes or become concerned about your dog consult your veterinary surgeon straight away.**





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ZYCORTAL: Zycortal contains desoxycortone pivalate

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