

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for Allergies in Dogs

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Canine Atopic Dermatitis Immunotherapeutic® (CADI) is a new monoclonal antibody therapy designed to decrease/stop itching in dogs.

Antibodies are generally thought of as something that fights infection in the body. CADI uses antibodies in a different way. In CADI, antibodies have been engineered so that they can bind to the molecule in the body that is the cause of itching. This molecule is a cytokine called IL-31. When the CADI antibody has inactivated all of the IL-31 in the body, the itching stops.

Apoquel® turns off the pathway that leads to the production of IL-31. CADI and Apoquel® are two completely different drugs that essentially target the same molecule.

CADI takes effect within 24 to 48 hours.

CADI reduces itching by at least 50% in approximately 8/10 dogs. Some dogs experience complete itch relief, and some dogs experience partial itch relief. The effect of the injection lasts for one month in most dogs; although the effect may wear off more quickly for some and last longer for others.

CADI is administered as an injection. The dose is approximately 1 mg/lb. The volume of the injection is usually 1mL. It is administered subcutaneously.

This is a caninized antibody, so it should be given to dogs only. It should not be given to cats or other species. It would be similar to administering a canine blood product to a cat.

CADI can be combined with any medication; although it may be prudent to avoid vaccinations on the same day as the CADI injection.

There are no specific contraindications to administering CADI aside from using caution in administering it to systemically ill dogs.

Reported side effects are minimal, and seemingly limited to allergic reaction, very rarely.

CADI is most appropriate as an adjunctive therapy. It should be considered for dogs that are having an allergy flare up, or for dogs that have short, seasonal allergy

symptoms. It can be combined with other allergy medications, and it can be used to control itching while waiting for long-term allergy treatments to take effect.

CADI is not expected to control itching that is complicated by yeast or bacterial infections.

The dermatologists at McKeever Dermatology Clinics recommend a CBC, serum chemistry and urinalysis baseline prior to administration of CADI.

In summary, this is an antibody injection for dogs that reduces or stops itching within 1 to 2 days. The effect lasts for 1 month for most dogs. It does not work for every dog. It appears quite safe and can be combined with other medications.

Monoclonal antibody therapy represents a major advancement in veterinary dermatology.