

TABLE 2

Acute Flare and Long-term Management Therapies in Dogs

Drug Name	Acute Flare	Long-term Management	Advantage/Disadvantage
Oclacitinib	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very rapid onset of action (hours) • Does not interfere with intradermal allergy testing and immunotherapy • Antipruritic and anti-inflammatory
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not for use in dogs <1 yr of age • Do not use in the presence of deep skin or systemic infection, neoplasia, or history of neoplasia • Has not been tested in dogs receiving other long-term allergy medications such as corticosteroids and cyclosporine
Lokivetmab	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe for use in puppies and dogs with comorbidities (neoplasia, infection, systemic disease) • Does not interfere with intradermal allergy testing and immunotherapy • Biologic compound • Safe to use in combination with other medications
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be administered at veterinary clinic • Variable onset of action (hours to 3 days)
Corticosteroids	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid onset of action • Antipruritic and anti-inflammatory
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side effects common
Allergen-specific immunotherapy	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe to use in combination with other medications • Only management strategy that induces change in the immune response • Biologic compound
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow onset of action (months to 1 yr) • Requires intradermal or serum allergy testing
Cyclosporine	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not interfere with intradermal allergy testing
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow onset of action (weeks) • Side effects common (gastrointestinal, hirsutism, gingival hyperplasia, papilloma) • Requires periodic monitoring of hepatic enzymes and blood cell counts
EFA s	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have steroid-sparing benefits
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow onset of action (weeks to months)
Antihistamines	X	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side effects uncommon
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionable efficacy—may only be effective in mildly pruritic animals

EFA, essential fatty acids.

The 2023 AAHA Management of Allergic Skin Diseases Guidelines are available at aaha.org/allergic-diseases.

These guidelines were prepared by a Task Force of experts convened by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and were subjected to a formal peer-review process. This document is intended as a guideline only, not an AAHA standard of care. These guidelines and recommendations should not be construed as dictating an exclusive protocol, course of treatment, or procedure. Variations in practice may be warranted based on the needs of the individual patient, resources, and limitations unique to each individual practice setting. ©2023 AAHA.

