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Canine Addison's Disease Types: Primary, Secondary and Atypical

Addison's disease in dogs: primary or secondary

Addison's disease in dogs can be classified into three forms: primary, secondary, and atypical. Primary Addison's disease occurs when the adrenal glands fail to produce enough glucocorticoids and mineralocorticoids due to an immune system attack on the adrenal gland's tissue. Treatment typically involves medications like Florinef or Percot en-

V. Secondary Addison's disease is caused by pituitary gland malfunction, leading to inadequate cortisol production despite adequate aldosterone levels. Dogs with this form manage their disease with a low-dose prescription for glucocorticoid. Atypical Addison's disease shares a common treatment with secondary forms, as it involves the adrenal glands producing adequate levels of aldosterone but not enough cortisol.

Canine Addison's disease occurs when the adrenal glands fail to produce proper levels of steroids called glucocorticoids (cortisol) and mineralocorticoids (aldosterone).

Mineralocorticoids maintain the body's potassium and sodium balance. Glucocorticoids aid in regulating a dog's blood pressure, stimulate the metabolism and help maintaining a calm state.

Addison's disease comes in three forms: primary, secondary and atypical. Secondary and atypical forms tend to be very close in nature, so they share a common treatment.

Common Symptoms of Canine Addison's Disease

A dog with Addison's disease is generally no older than five years of age.

Original symptoms include lethargy, vomiting and diarrhea. Eventually, the dog's blood chemistry changes and sugar levels drop causing the animal to collapse. Untreated dogs may develop heart arrhythmias.

Primary Addison's Disease

With primary Addison's disease, the **dog's adrenal glands** fail to produce enough of both hormones. Research proves the disease starts after the immune system attacks the adrenal gland's tissue. If your dog has the primary form of Addison's disease, your veterinarian will prescribe either Florinef or Percoten-V.

Secondary and Atypical Addison's Disease

The secondary and atypical forms of canine Addison's disease finds the dog's adrenal glands producing adequate levels of aldosterone, but not enough cortisol. Typically, these forms occur due to pituitary gland malfunction. Dogs diagnosed with the secondary or atypical forms manage their disease with a low-dose prescription for glucocorticoid.