



Numelvi®

Commonly Asked Questions

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Allergic dermatitis

1. What is allergic dermatitis in dogs?

Dermatitis is a broad term used to describe any inflammation or irritation in the skin. Allergic dermatitis is an inflammatory skin condition that results from an abnormal reaction of the immune system to certain substances in some dogs. It may cause clinical signs like itch, redness (inflammation), hair loss and sleep disruption. Itch can manifest as scratching, rubbing, chewing, licking, excessive grooming, rolling, scooting and head shaking. These signs can be seasonal or year-round and may vary in intensity. Allergic dermatitis is a lifelong condition.

2. Is allergic dermatitis one condition?

In dogs, there are four main types of allergic dermatitis – flea allergy dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, food-responsive dermatitis and other, which includes bites of other insects and contact dermatitis.

3. What is flea allergy dermatitis?

Flea allergy dermatitis is caused by flea bites. Fleas inject saliva into the skin of an animal when they bite to prevent blood clotting so that they can feed easily. Flea saliva contains various proteins and other substances that may elicit an immune response in some animals.

4. What is atopic dermatitis?

Atopic dermatitis is a chronic form of allergic dermatitis. The development of atopic dermatitis is complex. It typically develops in response to skin exposure to common environmental allergens like house dust mites, moulds and plants.¹ A combination of factors like genetics, abnormalities in the skin barrier and skin microbiome, environmental exposure and lifestyle can influence the development of atopic dermatitis. These complex interactions contribute to the differences in the pattern and severity of clinical signs as well as prognosis in affected dogs.¹

5. What is food-responsive dermatitis?

Food-responsive dermatitis is a type of allergic dermatitis caused by certain proteins in food such as chicken, beef, and pork.

6. How common is otitis externa in dogs with allergic dermatitis?

Otitis externa is inflammation of the external ear and may include overgrowth of bacteria and/or yeast. It is common and occurs in up to 10–20% of dogs in general practice.^{2–4} Allergic dermatitis is the primary cause of otitis externa in more than two-thirds of affected dogs.^{4,5} It is the most common cause of otitis externa in dogs and may be the only sign of allergic dermatitis.^{4,6} MSD can provide Otomax® to support otitis externa where appropriate.

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7. How is allergic dermatitis diagnosed?

There is no single test to diagnose allergic dermatitis in dogs. This makes diagnosis a challenge. Diagnosis requires considering and ruling out other conditions that cause itch.⁶ The first step is to obtain a detailed history (seasonality of itch, itch severity, areas of the skin affected, presence of gastrointestinal signs and flea control). This can help to identify factors that trigger itch, such as changes in diet, introduction of new treats, bathing, outdoor activities or interacting with other dogs. Visit the [Numelvi website](#) to download our work-up guide on how to diagnose allergic dermatitis.

8. How important is flea treatment for dogs with allergic dermatitis?

Flea treatment can help to rule out fleas as a cause of allergic dermatitis.⁶ Fleas trigger itch in dogs, even dogs without flea allergy dermatitis, making year-round flea prevention an important part of a treatment plan for dogs with allergic dermatitis. Bravecto offers 1-month, 12-week, and 1-year flea treatment options <https://uk.bravovets.com/>. Bravecto Injectable delivers a full year of dependable flea control, ensuring easy and responsible management by vets.

9. Is allergic dermatitis curable?

Allergic dermatitis is a lifelong disease, and ongoing care is key. It can't be cured or fully avoided, but with a simple, long-term treatment plan, we can control symptoms and offer their dog the relief they need.



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Treating allergic dermatitis with Numelvi

1. What is Numelvi?

Numelvi is a second-generation JAK (Janus Kinase) inhibitor licensed for the treatment of:

- Pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis in dogs
- Clinical manifestations associated with atopic dermatitis in dogs, including pruritus

2. What is JAK and how is it involved in itching?

JAKs (Janus kinases) are a family of four receptor-associated tyrosine kinase enzymes located inside cells: JAK1, JAK2, JAK3, and TYK2 (tyrosine kinase 2). JAKs participate in many processes in the body, including itch and inflammation, host defence (immune response and regulation), as well as production and differentiation of blood cells.⁷

3. Why is JAK selectivity important?

JAK1 is the primary driver of itch and inflammation. High selectivity for JAK1 helps minimise interference with other JAK enzymes, crucial for immune function, blood cell production and differentiation.^{8,9} Numelvi is at least 10X more selective for JAK1 compared to the other JAK-family members (JAK2, JAK3, TYK2).^{*10} Thus, it has very little to no effect on cytokines involved in blood cell production and differentiation or host defence that are dependent on JAK2 or the other JAK-family members.



4. How soon does a dog's itch start to decrease after starting treatment with Numelvi?

Numelvi provides rapid relief that starts within 2–4 hours of administration.^{**11} Significant reduction in itch is seen within a day after the first dose of Numelvi.¹²



*Over the other JAK enzymes in *in vitro* assays.

**Based on a canine interleukin-31 induced pruritus model.

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5. How is Numelvi dosed?

Numelvi should be administered orally once daily at the recommended dose of 0.8–1.2 mg/kg bodyweight at, or around the time of feeding in accordance with the following dosing table:

Simple Dosing: Dogs weighing 3.0–39.5 kg require half or one tablet daily

Body weight of dog kg	Strength and number of Numelvi tablets to be administered at or around time of feeding			
kg	4.8 mg	7.2 mg	21.6 mg	31.6 mg
3.0–4.3		½		
4.4–6.0	1			
6.1–9.0		1		
9.1–13.5			½	
13.6–19.3				½
19.4–26.5			1	
26.6–39.5				1
39.6–54.0				1 ½
54.1–79.0				2

9.6 x 4.8 mm



10.9 x 5.4 mm



15.7 x 7.8 mm



18.0 x 9.1 mm



Dogs outside the listed weight bands, for example dogs above 79 kg bodyweight, can be dosed with a combination of full and/or half tablets of the appropriate tablet strengths to achieve a target dose of 0.8–1.2 mg atinvcitinib/kg bodyweight. Available tablet strengths do not allow for accurate dosing of dogs weighing less than 2 kg bodyweight.

The tablets are breakable along the score line.

6. Why is no loading dose required?

In our clinical trial work, the once daily dosing group performed better than the twice daily for 2 weeks followed by once daily thereafter, hence why a once daily dose was selected.

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7. Are there any issues with palatability?

There were no reports during any of the trial work of issues with acceptance of the tablets.

8. Is Numelvi flavoured?

Numelvi tablets are unflavoured.

9. How long is a treatment course of Numelvi?

Dogs with flea allergy dermatitis may only require a short course of treatment with Numelvi to reduce itch, in addition to year-round flea control. Dogs with seasonal allergic dermatitis typically require Numelvi during specific seasons when they are itchy. Other dogs, like those with atopic dermatitis, may require year-round itch management. Year-round flea control is advised for all dogs with allergic dermatitis.

10. What side effects might occur in a dog during treatment with Numelvi?

Numelvi has a favourable safety profile¹⁰ and is effective in dogs with allergic dermatitis, including atopic dermatitis. Dogs tolerate treatment with Numelvi well. Common side effects of Numelvi include diarrhoea, vomiting, lethargy and reduced appetite. These are usually mild and transient and do not require additional treatment. Recommend to owners that they monitor their dog during treatment and to report back if they have any concerns.

11. Can you vaccinate dogs with allergic dermatitis who are taking Numelvi?

Yes, it is important that a dog remains up to date with vaccinations against important diseases like canine distemper, canine hepatitis, canine parvovirus and rabies for any pets travelling abroad. There are treatments for allergic dermatitis that may impact a dog's response to routine vaccinations. However, with Numelvi there is an adequate response to all the above-listed components of the vaccine during treatment, including rabies. Once the prescribing vet/you have recommended an approach to managing allergic dermatitis in a dog, any adjustments to preventative healthcare (such as vaccination and parasiticide choice) can be made, if necessary.



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12. Can Numelvi be given at the same time as other treatments?

Yes – continue to use other prescribed products, such as flea and tick control, alongside Numelvi. It is not however advised to use Numelvi with other prescription treatments for allergic dermatitis that have similar effects to avoid overlap that might increase the risk of side effects.

13. Can steroids be given concurrently?

During the trial work, steroids were not permitted as they would interfere with PVAS scores. Use of Numelvi with steroids would therefore be on a risk-benefit basis and route of administration should be considered (topical vs systemic).

14. What should be done if a dose of Numelvi is missed?

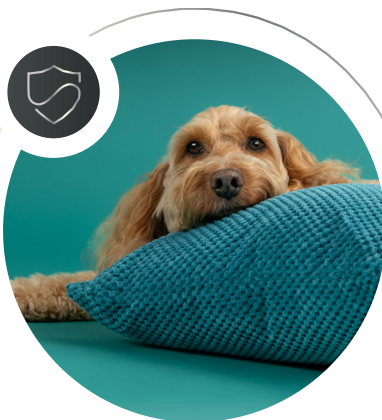
If a dose of Numelvi is missed, or an owner is uncertain whether the dose was given successfully, the next dose should be given as scheduled 24hrs later. There should be no need to administer an extra dose.

15. How should a dog be transitioned from another allergic dermatitis product to Numelvi?

Atinivicitinib is rapidly excreted from the body and therefore Numelvi can be used 24 hours after an alternative JAK inhibitor. It is good practice to wait until the end of the product's duration of activity before starting a new product.

16. Do you have any head-to-head trial work with other products?

Numelvi has not been studied in head-to-head clinical trials with other products. As the only second-generation JAK inhibitor, direct comparison with first-generation JAK inhibitors would not be a true like-for-like comparison. Numelvi was launched with strong clinical data demonstrating its efficacy and rapid itch relief in itchy dogs (view data at uk.numelvi.com) and further work will continue to build over time.



References

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7. Gonzales AJ, *et al.* Oclacitinib (APOQUEL®) is a novel Janus kinase inhibitor with activity against cytokines involved in allergy. *J Vet Pharmacol Ther.* 2014;37(4):317–324.
8. McKinney C. Experience from human medicine: The advantages of JAK1 selectivity in atopic dermatitis. European Veterinary Dermatology Congress, 11–13 Sep 2025, Bilbao, Spain [Abstract].
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10. Numelvi® Summary of Product Characteristics.
11. MSD Study Reference REF-11201. MSD Animal Health.
12. MSD Study Reference REF-11194. MSD Animal Health.

Numelvi® tablets for dogs contains atinvcitinib. **POM-V.** Further information is available from the SPC, datasheet or package leaflet. Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber. Prescription decisions are for the person issuing the prescription alone. **Use Medicines Responsibly.**

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