

Peer-Reviewed Publication on the Efficacy and Field Safety of Zenrelia® (ilunocitinib tablets) for the Control of Atopic Dermatitis in Client Owned Dogs, is Available



Scan the QR Code to Read the Full Peer Reviewed Study in Veterinary Dermatology



Received: 15 November 2024 | Accepted: 1 April 2025
DOI: 10.1111/vde.13344

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Veterinary Dermatology

Efficacy and field safety of ilunocitinib for the control of atopic dermatitis in client-owned dogs: A multicentre, double-masked, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial

Sophie Forster¹ | Candace M. Trout² | Simona Despa² | Annette Boegel³ | Darren Berger² | Stephen King²

¹Elanco Animal Health Ltd, Hook, UK
²Elanco Animal Health, Greenfield, Indiana, USA

³Elanco Animal Health GmbH, Leverkusen, Germany

Correspondence

Sophie Forster, Elanco Animal Health UK Limited, Bartley Way, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook RG27 9XA, UK. Email: sophie.forster@elancoah.com

Funding information

Elanco Animal Health

Abstract

Background: Inhibition of the Janus kinase (JAK) pathway is a well-established option for canine atopic dermatitis (cAD).

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of ilunocitinib, a novel JAK inhibitor for the control of pruritus and skin lesions in client-owned dogs with cAD.

Animals: Two hundred sixty-eight dogs at 25 veterinary clinics.

Materials and Methods: In this randomised, double-masked, clinical trial, dogs received either ilunocitinib ($n=181$; 0.6–0.8 mg/kg) or placebo ($n=87$; 0.0 mg/kg) tablets once daily for 112 days. Pruritus was assessed by owners using a pruritus Visual Analog Scale (PVAS), while skin lesions were assessed by Investigators using the cAD Extent and Severity Index, 4th iteration (CADESI-04). Treatment success was defined as $\geq 50\%$ reduction from baseline PVAS or CADESI-04 score on Day (D)28. Proportions of dogs achieving clinical remission from pruritus (PVAS < 2) or skin lesions (CADESI-04 < 10) also were assessed.

Results: At D28, 83% of ilunocitinib-treated dogs achieved treatment success compared to 31% of placebo-treated dogs ($p < 0.001$). A significantly higher proportion of ilunocitinib-treated dogs achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in CADESI-04 scores at all time points ($p < 0.001$). The proportion of dogs achieving clinical remission PVAS or CADESI-04 scores was significantly higher in the ilunocitinib group starting on D7 and D14, respectively ($p < 0.05$). The 112-day ilunocitinib treatment was well tolerated.

Conclusions and Clinical Relevance: Once daily ilunocitinib was well-tolerated and effective at rapidly reducing pruritus and resolving cAD-associated skin lesions. Clinical remission was achieved by two-thirds of dogs after 4 months of treatment. Ilunocitinib is safe and effective for managing clinical signs associated with cAD.

KEYWORDS

canine atopic dermatitis, clinical remission, ilunocitinib, JAK inhibitor, pruritus, skin lesions

INTRODUCTION

Canine atopic dermatitis (cAD) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease, with pruritus being the primary clinical sign. Skin lesions are either primary (erythema, erythematous macular or papular eruptions) or secondary to pruritic manifestations (excoriations, self-induced alopecia and lichenification).¹ Secondary

complications such as bacterial or fungal colonisation and infections are common.² The pathogenesis of cAD is complex and multifactorial involving genetic and environmental factors, as well as a defective skin barrier.³ Diagnosis is based on history, clinical features and exclusion of other pruritic skin diseases, including flea and/or food allergies in nonseasonal patterns.⁴ It is therefore critical to control pruritus and

INDICATIONS

Zenrelia is indicated for control of pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis and control of atopic dermatitis in dogs at least 12 months of age.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Read the entire package insert, including the Boxed Warning, before using this drug. For full prescribing information call 1 888 545 5973 or visit www.elancolabels.com/us/zenrelia.

WARNING: INADEQUATE IMMUNE RESPONSE TO VACCINES. Based on results of the vaccine response study, dogs receiving Zenrelia are at risk of an inadequate immune response to vaccines. Discontinue Zenrelia for at least 28 days to 3 months prior to vaccination and withhold Zenrelia for at least 28 days after vaccination. Dogs should be up to date on vaccinations prior to starting Zenrelia. Do not use in dogs less than 12 months old or dogs with a serious infection. Monitor dogs for infections because Zenrelia may increase susceptibility to infections, including adenoviral hepatitis and pancreatitis. Neoplastic conditions (benign and malignant) were observed during clinical studies. Consider the risks and benefits of treatment in dogs with a history of recurrence of these conditions. The most common adverse reactions were vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. Zenrelia has not been evaluated in breeding, pregnant, or lactating dogs and concurrent use with glucocorticoids, cyclosporine, or other systemic immunosuppressive agents has not been tested. For full prescribing information see package insert.

Zenrelia™
(ilunocitinib tablets)

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes.

© 2025 Elanco Animal Health. Veterinary Dermatology published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of ESDV and ACVD.

Veterinary Dermatology, 2025, 00, 1–11.

wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/vde | 1