

## Pemphigus Foliaceus—cont'd

**TABLE 8-1** Immunosuppressive Therapies for Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Skin Disease

Drug—Species	Induction Dosage	Maintenance Dosage
<b>Topical Therapy</b>		
Steroids (hydrocortisone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone, fluocinolone, betamethasone, mometasone, and so on)	Applied every 12 hours	Taper to lowest effective dose
Tacrolimus	Applied every 12 hours	Taper to lowest effective dose
<b>Conservative Oral Treatments with Very Few Adverse Effects</b>		
Essential fatty acids—dogs and cats		180 mg EPA/10 lb PO daily
Vitamin E		400 IU PO daily
Tetracycline and niacinamide—dogs	Dogs >10 kg: 500 mg of each drug PO q 8 hours Dogs <10 kg: 250 mg of each drug PO q 8 hours	Dogs >10 kg: 500 mg of each drug PO q 12–24 hours Dogs >10 kg: 250 mg of each drug PO q 12–24 hours
Doxycycline and minocycline may be substituted for tetracycline	5–10 mg/kg q 12 hours	Then taper to lowest effective dose
Cyclosporine (Atopica)—dogs and cats	5–12.5 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	After remission is achieved, taper slowly to lowest effective dose
<b>Reliably Effective Treatments, but Adverse Effects Are Common and May Be Severe</b>		
Prednisone—dogs	1–3 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	0.5–2 mg/kg PO q 48 hours
Prednisolone—cats	2–2.5 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	2.5–5 mg/kg PO q 2–7 days
Methylprednisolone—dogs	0.8–1.4 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	0.4–0.8 mg/kg PO q 48 hours
Triamcinolone—dogs	0.1–0.3 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	0.1–0.2 mg/kg PO q 48–72 hours
Triamcinolone—cats	0.3–1 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	0.6–1 mg/kg PO q 2–7 days
Dexamethasone—dogs and cats	0.1–0.2 mg/kg PO q 12–24 hours	0.05–0.1 mg/kg PO q 48–72 hours
Oclacitinib (Apoquel)—dogs and cats	0.4–0.6 mg/kg PO q 12 hours (higher doses may be needed especially in cats)	After remission, taper to lowest effective dose
Azathioprine—dogs only	1.5–2.5 mg/kg PO q 24–48 hours	1.5–2.5 mg/kg PO q 48–72 hours
Chlorambucil—dogs and cats	0.1–0.2 mg/kg PO q 24 hours	0.1–0.2 mg/kg PO q 48 hours
Dapsone—dogs only	1 mg/kg PO q 8 hours	Taper to lowest effective dose
<b>Aggressive Treatments with Few Studies Documenting Efficacy and Safety</b>		
Methylprednisolone sodium succinate (pulse therapy)—dogs and cats	1 mg/kg IV over a 3- to 4-hour period q 24 hours for 2–3 consecutive days	Alternate-day oral glucocorticosteroid
Dexamethasone (pulse therapy)—dogs and cats	1 mg/kg IV once or twice 24 hours apart	Alternate-day oral glucocorticosteroid
Cyclophosphamide—dogs and cats	50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (or 1.5 mg/kg) PO q 48 hours	25–50 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (or 0.75–1.5 mg/kg) PO q 48 hours
Mycophenolate mofetil	10–20 mg/kg q 8–12 hours	Then taper to lowest effective dose
Leflunomide	2 mg/kg q 12 hours	Then taper to lowest effective dose

EPA, Eicosapentaenoic acid; PO, oral; q, every.