

CYCLOSPORINE OPHTHALMICS

Cequa, Vevye* (cyclosporine ophthalmic solution)

Restasis (cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion)

Verkazia (cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion)

*Prior authorization for the brand formulation applies only to formulary exceptions due to being a non-covered medication.

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM**Background**

Cyclosporine is an immunosuppressant agent when administered systemically. Following ocular administration, cyclosporine is thought to act by blocking the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-2 (1-4).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indications:

Restasis is a topical immunomodulator indicated to increase tear production in patients whose tear production is presumed to be suppressed due to ocular inflammation associated with keratoconjunctivitis sicca. Increased tear production was not seen in patients currently taking topical anti-inflammatory drugs or using punctal plugs (1).

Cequa is a calcineurin inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated to increase tear production in patients with keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye) (2).

Verkazia is a calcineurin inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated for the treatment of vernal keratoconjunctivitis (VKC) in children and adults (3).

Vevye is a calcineurin inhibitor immunosuppressant indicated for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of dry eye disease (4).

The safety and effectiveness of Restasis in pediatric patients less than 16 years of age have not been established. The safety and effectiveness of Cequa and Vevye in pediatric patients less than 18 years of age have not been established. The safety and effectiveness of Verkazia in pediatric patients less than 4 years of age have not been established (1-4).

Summary

Cyclosporine ophthalmics are used to treat chronic dry eye as a result of keratoconjunctivitis sicca or



Federal Employee Program.

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Prior approval is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Cyclosporine ophthalmics while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. Restasis [package insert]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie; September 2024.
2. Cequa [package insert]. Cranbury, NJ: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.; July 2022.
3. Verkazia [package insert]. Emeryville, CA: Santen Inc.; June 2022.
4. Vevye [package insert]. Nashville, TN: Harrow Eye, LLC; August 2023.