Amiodarone - Main

Amiodarone - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Amiodarone - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Amiodarone - Tablet (Cats)

Amiodarone - Tablet (Dogs)

General Description:

Heart disease is common in cats and dogs. Abnormal electrical impulses in the heart can lead to an abnormal heartbeat or arrhythmia. The heart is unable to pump blood effectively to the rest of the body when it is beating abnormally. Amiodarone is used to treat heart arrhythmias allowing the heart to beat more efficiently. This medication is available only by prescription from a licensed veterinarian as an oral tablet and an injectable solution.

What is this drug?

A class III antiarrhythmic agent

Usually given mouth

Reasons for prescribing:

Used for treatment of left ventricular arrhythmias or for converting atrial fibrillation into a normal sinus rhythm

There is limited experience using Amiodarone in veterinary medicine, it may be used when other safer antiarrhythmics have been ineffective

Animal Precautions:

This medication is used off-label in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian

Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian

Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:

Certain heart diseases (2nd and 3rd degree AV block and arrhythmias involving a slow heart rate)

Thyroid-related disease

Safety has not been established in:

Pregnant or nursing animals

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

Directions:

The injectable form of this medication is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital which allows for ECG, heart rate monitoring and adequate patient support during treatment.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully. Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy. This medication may require some time for effectiveness to be noted. This medication may be a life long medication.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work (including liver enzyme evaluation), blood pressure measurements, chest radiographs, electrocardiogram (ECG), and urinalysis may be recommended to monitor your pet's heart disease as well as this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your cat or dog is responding clinically.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. You should see improvements in your pet's clinical signs.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give this medication at the same time(s) daily.

What if a dose is missed?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

What to tell/ask a veterinarian before giving medication?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

Common signs of heart disease in your pet

When your pet will need to be rechecked

What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug

What are the safety concerns when using this product in different species

What are the risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products

If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever

If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever

If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever

All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medications can be given together.

If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

Storage and Warnings:

Amiodarone should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Amiodarone may interfere with certain laboratory testing including thyroid and Coombs' tests.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Potential side effects:

There is limited information and experience using Amiodarone in veterinary medicine so all potential adverse effects are unknown at this time

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing vomiting and anorexia

This medication can affect the cardiovascular system causing a slower heart rate

This medication can cause changes to the cornea, reduce neutrophils and reduce platelets

This medication can affect the liver causing an increase in liver enzymes and bilirubin

This medication can cause histamine release when given into the vein or intravenously (IV)

If you notice any of these symptoms or if your pet's condition worsens contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

Can this drug be given with other drugs?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Amiodarone in conjunction with anticoagulants (warfarin), azole antifungals (ketoconazole, itraconazole), beta-adrenergic blockers, calcium-channel blockers (diltiazem, verapamil), cimetidine, cisapride, cyclosporine, digoxin, disopyramide, dolasetron, fentanyl, fluoroquinolone antibiotic, general anesthetics, lidocaine, macrolide antibiotics (erythromycin), methotrexate, ondansetron, phenytoin, procainamide, quinidine and rifampin

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Amiodarone

Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian

If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian

What should I do if I know of or suspect there has been an overdose?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if pet receives more than the prescribed amount.

What else should I know?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, Amiodarone should only be given to the pet for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

This is just a summary of information about Amiodarone. If you have any questions or concerns about this medication or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.