

Amlodipine Besylate - Main

Amlodipine Besylate - Tablet (Cats)

Amlodipine Besylate - Tablet (Dogs)

General Description:

Amlodipine Besylate is a calcium channel blocking agent used to manage high blood pressure in cats and dogs. It relaxes blood vessels and increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart while reducing its workload. Amlodipine Besylate is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as a tablet.

What is this drug?

Amlodipine Besylate is a calcium channel blocker

Given by mouth

Reasons for prescribing:

Used to decrease systemic hypertension or high blood pressure in pets with chronic kidney disease

Animal Precautions:

This medication is labeled for use in cats and used off-label in 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:

Liver disease

Certain heart disease (aortic stenosis and heart failure), pulmonary hypertension

Shock

Safety has not been established in:

Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals

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

Directions:

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. Do not discontinue the drug abruptly or without directions from your veterinarian, as your pet's condition may worsen.

This drug will likely need to be taken for the rest of your pet's life. It will be very important to follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding recheck appointments.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work and blood pressure measurements may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

This medication is often given on an empty stomach. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills.

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

What if dose is missed?

Missing even one dose can lead to a significant rise in blood pressure, which could lead to other serious health issues. 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 your veterinarian before giving this medication?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

When will your pet 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

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 medicines can be given together.

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

Storage and Warnings:

Store this medicine in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

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:

Some humans taking Amlodipine Besylate report headaches, flushing and feeling warm. In pets, it is difficult to tell if they may experience this side effect

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing a loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and dehydration

This medication can cause low blood pressure, a change in heart rate, lethargy, dizziness

This medication can cause swelling of the gums or gingival hyperplasia

This medication can cause an increase in urea, an increase in creatinine, and a decrease in potassium (hypokalemia)

If you notice anything unusual, 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 medications?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Amlodipine Besylate in conjunction with ACE inhibitors (enalapril), atenolol, clopidogrel, cyclosporine, diltiazem, diuretics (furosemide), fentanyl, ketoconazole, itraconazole, propranolol, rifampin, tacrolimus

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Amlodipine Besylate

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 your 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, Amlodipine Besylate 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.

It is likely that your veterinarian will periodically want to monitor your pet's blood pressure and evaluate the retinas for signs of bleeding.

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