

## BENAZEPRIL HYDROCHLORIDE

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Heart disease is common in dogs and cats. With advanced heart disease, the heart eventually becomes unable to pump blood effectively to the rest of the body. This heart medication is an ACE inhibitor which helps to relax blood vessels and increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart while reducing its workload. Benazepril is available as a tablet.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor; a vasodilator and antihypertension agent

Dilates the veins and decreases fluid retention

Given by mouth

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To treat high blood pressure or hypertension in dogs and cats

To treat congestive heart failure in dogs and cats

To treat some chronic kidney conditions in dogs and cats

### WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This drug will not work well in pets with severe liver disease

Pets with lupus, circulating blood cell abnormalities, low circulating blood volume, a history of cardiac output failure or those with low sodium levels

Use with caution in cats weighing less than 2.5 kg

Pregnant or nursing pets

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to Benazepril or other ACE inhibitors

**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 is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work to assess kidney function, 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 dog or cat 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 will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

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 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 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 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:

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing nausea, appetite loss, vomiting and diarrhea

This medication can impact kidney function causing increased thirst and changes in urination

This medication can cause abnormally high potassium levels (hyperkalemia) which may cause weakness, slow heart rate and weak pulse

High doses can lead to very low blood pressure, which may cause weakness and collapse

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 MEDICATIONS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Benazepril in conjunction with allopurinol, amiodarone, antidiabetic oral agents, antihistamines, antihypertensive agents, apomorphine, aspirin, azathioprine, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, buspirone, cabergoline, candesartan, cisapride, corticosteroids, cyclosporin, dalteparin, dexmedetomidine, diazoxide, diuretics (furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide, spironolactone, triamterene) enoxaparin, fenoldopam, fluoroquinolones, furazolidone, glycerine, heparin, insulin, interferon, iohexol, iron, lanthanum, lithium, methotrexate, mirtazapine, muscle relaxants (methocarbamol), naltrexone, nitroglycerine, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), ondansetron, opioids, pentoxifylline, pergolide, phenothiazines (acepromazine), polyethylene glycol (PEG), potassium supplements, prazosin, pregabalin, procarbazine, selegiline, sildenafil, sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim, thioguanine, trazodone, telmisartan and tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine)

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Benazepril

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, Benazepril 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.

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