

Methimazole - Main

Methimazole - Oral Suspension (Cats)

Methimazole - Oral Suspension (Dogs)

Methimazole - Tablet (Cats)

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Methimazole - Transdermal Gel (Cats)

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Trade Names:

FELIMAZOLE® Coated Tablets (methimazole tablets)

METHIMAZOLE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

An overactive thyroid hormone or hyperthyroidism is a very common medical condition in cats. Common clinical signs include weight loss, increased appetite, unkempt hair coat, and increased thirst. Methimazole is a drug used in cats to restore the thyroid hormone to a more normal level. It is also given as a kidney protectant to dogs receiving cisplatin chemotherapy. It is available from your veterinarian as an oral suspension, tablet or as a transdermal gel.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A drug which blocks the production of excess thyroid hormones

Given by mouth or applied topically to the skin for absorption into the bloodstream (transdermal)

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To control hyperthyroidism in the cat

To protect the kidneys in dogs receiving cisplatin chemotherapy

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Use with extreme caution in pets with anemia, clotting disorders, bleeding, low white cell and platelet counts, kidney, liver or immune system diseases

Use with extreme caution in pregnant or nursing pets. The young should be placed on milk replacer after they've nursed colostrum (first milk immediately after birth)

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to Methimazole or like products

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. For cats with hyperthyroidism, this is commonly a life-long medication.

Before starting therapy, baseline blood work should be performed to assess thyroid levels and your pet's overall health. Periodic blood work will be necessary to monitor thyroid levels and the drug's effect on your pet's health. Dose adjustments will be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your 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.

Tablets often have a bitter taste. If your cat will not take tablets, Methimazole can be formulated as a flavored liquid to be mixed in the food, or it can be compounded as a gel to be applied on the hairless skin of the inside of your cat's ear. For transdermal gel, wear gloves and wash your hands after handling.

This medication can take a few weeks before full effects are obvious, but side effects can occur immediately. Gradual improvements are usually noticed after a few days.

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

Call ahead for refills.

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.

Refrigerate oral suspension.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Owners with low thyroid function should be cautious when handling and should avoid all skin contact.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Do not confuse this medication with methazolamide or metolazone.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Any side effects usually occur within the first three months. Side effects may be reduced by beginning at a smaller dose and working up to a full therapeutic dose within a few months. If you notice any of the effects mentioned below, notify your veterinarian.

Decreased appetite, vomiting and lethargy. You may notice these within the first weeks of treatment.

Liver problems (including the above symptoms, plus dark urine, yellowing of the gums, skin or eyes), facial itching resulting in scratching or bleeding tendencies

Underlying kidney disease may become apparent

Rare cases of myasthenia gravis (severely weakened muscles, difficulty swallowing)

Unusually tired, fever (temperature over 103°F), bruising or bleeding

If you notice any of these symptoms or anything else 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 Methimazole in conjunction with albendazole, beta-blockers, chloramphenicol, digoxin, dipyrrone, fenbendazole, iodine 131, phenobarbital, prednisone, theophylline, thiabendazole and warfarin

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Methimazole

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, Methimazole 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 Methimazole. If you have any questions or concerns about Methimazole or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.