

Metronidazole - Main

Metronidazole - Capsule (Cats)

Metronidazole - Capsule (Dogs)

Metronidazole - Injectable Solution (Cats)

Metronidazole - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Metronidazole - Oral Solution (Cats)

Metronidazole - Oral Solution (Dogs)

Metronidazole - Tablet (Cats)

Metronidazole - Tablet (Dogs)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Metronidazole is an antibiotic that is commonly used in dogs to treat diarrhea and infections caused by anaerobic bacteria. It can also be used to treat some intestinal parasites, especially *Giardia* spp. Metronidazole is available as an injectable formulation.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

Metronidazole is an antibiotic and an antiprotozoal

Given by intravenous (into the vein) infusion

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Effective against certain protozoal infections, especially *Giardia*

Used to treat colitis/inflammatory bowel disease

Used to treat central nervous system and oral/dental infections

Used as an antidiarrhea medication

Used sometimes in cancer radiotherapy

WHAT DOGS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This medication should not be used in animals with a history of liver or kidney disease

This medication should be used with caution in animals with a circulating blood cell abnormality

This medication should be used with caution in debilitated or geriatric animals

This medication should be used with caution in working dogs as it can cause a decrease in olfactory abilities

Safety in pregnant or nursing pets has not been established

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this drug should not take this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of Metronidazole is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

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 is usually given once or twice daily. The length of therapy depends upon the disease condition as well as your pet's response to Metronidazole. Finish the entire course of treatment.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Dose adjustments may be made based upon test results and an assessment of how your dog is responding clinically.

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

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.

Call ahead for refills.

WHAT IF 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

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:

Injectable formulations that require reconstitution are still light sensitive and should be used within 24 hours.

Metronidazole normally has a strong sulfurous odor which may smell like cat urine.

Metronidazole can cause excessive salivation due to its bitter taste.

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:

Generally side effects are not seen unless the pet is taking a very high dose or for a prolonged period of time (months). Side effects seen are:

This medication may affect the gastrointestinal system causing a decrease in appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and oral inflammation

This medication can affect the circulating white blood cells causing a reduction in neutrophils or neutropenia

This medication can cause liver damage (yellowing of gums, eyes, skin)

This medication can affect the urinary system causing a brown discoloration to the urine as well as blood in the urine

This medication can affect the neurological system causing weakness, stumbling, knuckling of the paws, head tilt to one side, dilated pupils, bizarre back and forth movements of the eye (called nystagmus) or seizures (cats)

If you notice anything unusual, discontinue use and 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 Metronidazole in conjunction with busulfan, cimetidine, cyclosporine, fluorouracil, phenobarbital, phenytoin, sedatives or tranquilizers, warfarin, and products with alcohol as an ingredient

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Metronidazole

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