

Polyethylene Glycol 3350

What is Polyethylene Glycol?

Polyethylene Glycol (PEG, Miralax) is a laxative agent available with and without electrolytes that keep water in the colon to soften stools and increase the frequency of stool production. It may also be used to empty the colon before a procedure, such as a colonoscopy.

Its use in cats and dogs is 'off-label'. Many drugs are commonly prescribed for off-label use in veterinary medicine. In these instances, follow your veterinarian's directions and cautions very carefully, as their directions may differ significantly from those on the label.

How is PEG given?

PEG is given by mouth in the form of a powder or liquid. It may be mixed with food but ensure your pet swallows the entire dose. Measure the liquid form carefully. Contact your veterinarian if you have trouble administering it. Make sure your pet always has access to plenty of clean drinking water while using this medication.

This medication can take effect one hour after administration.

What if I miss giving my pet the medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time, and return to the regular dosing schedule. Never give your pet two doses at once or give extra doses.

Are there any potential side effects?

The most common side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, nausea, flatulence, and abdominal cramping, and these signs usually resolve over time. If any of these signs persist, worsen, or are severe, contact your veterinarian.

Using PEG with electrolytes can cause fluid and electrolyte imbalances, so follow your veterinarian's directions carefully to avoid overdosing or using it for too long.

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours.

Are there any risk factors for this medication?

PEG should not be used in pets that are allergic to it, in pets with intestinal blockage/obstruction, or in pets with toxic colitis or gastric retention. PEG with electrolytes should be used cautiously in pets with inflammatory bowel disease or fluid/electrolyte imbalances and in pregnant or lactating pets, as it has not been evaluated in patients with these conditions.

Are there any drug interactions I should be aware of?

The following medications should be used with caution when given with PEG: atropine, diuretics, other laxatives, opioids, extended-release oral medications, and tricyclic antidepressants. Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) your pet takes.

Is there any monitoring that needs to be done with this medication?

Fluid and electrolyte status needs to be monitored when using PEG with electrolytes. When using PEG without electrolytes, monitor your pet's bowel movements and consult your veterinarian regarding dosing to achieve the recommended bowel movement frequency and consistency. Your veterinarian may recommend regular checkups and laboratory testing depending on your pet's condition.

How do I store PEG?

Store PEG powder at 77°F (25°C) or as the label directs, in a tight container, and protected from heat or light. Do not freeze this medication. Store PEG solutions in the refrigerator and use within the directed interval.