

Mirtazapine - Main

Mirtazapine - Tablet (Cats)

Mirtazapine - Tablet (Dogs)

Mirtazapine - Topical Transdermal Ointment (Cats)

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Trade Names:

Mirataz® (mirtazapine transdermal ointment)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Mirtazapine is an antidepressant that increases the neurotransmitter levels of serotonin and norepinephrine in the body. It is commonly used in dogs and cats to manage conditions where nausea and poor appetite are a concern which can help manage weight loss by promoting weight gain. This medication is available as a tablet and a topical transdermal ointment.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A tetracyclic antidepressant

Tablets are given by mouth and the transdermal ointment is applied directly on the skin with the medication absorbed into the systemic circulation

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Often used to manage nausea and stimulate appetite to assist with maintaining weight or promoting weight gain in animals that are dealing with weight loss

Commonly used for medical conditions such as chronic kidney disease and to assist with chemotherapy-related side effects

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This medication should not be used in animals that have recently received other medications that can cause an increase in serotonin (e.g. selegiline and fluoxetine)

This medication should be used with caution in animals with diseases that could be exacerbated with low blood pressure

This medication should be used with caution in animals with kidney or liver disease

This medication should be used with caution in animals with diabetes, urinary retention, prostatic hypertrophy, glaucoma, gastrointestinal obstruction or poor intestinal motility

This medication should be used with caution in animals with pre-existing blood cell abnormalities such as low white blood cells, low neutrophils and low platelets

This medication should be used with caution in animals that require full alertness when performing - guide dogs, police dogs, rescue dogs

The transdermal formulation should not be used in cats that are less than 2 kg, or less than 6 months of age

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:

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food.

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.

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

For transdermal application:

Discuss with your veterinarian if you should clean the skin prior to applying the mirtazapine transdermal ointment. This product needs to be applied directly to the skin surface for appropriate absorption and not on top of the fur. It is often applied in a location that has minimal fur such as the inner ear. This medication should not be applied into the ear canal. Application in this location will help with absorption and to prevent your pet from licking the product. It is often recommended to alternate the application between the left and right ear.

Avoid getting this medication in your pet's eyes, nose or mouth.

This medication is meant to be absorbed through the skin, it is not intended to be ingested. Do not allow pets to lick the product or ingest mirtazapine transdermal ointment. If you have multiple pets, keep them separated for a short time to prevent licking the medication off.

It is recommended to wear gloves for application of any transdermal products and wash your hands after following application. Avoid contact with treated animals for 2 hours following application.

Application of mirtazapine transdermal ointment will be demonstrated by your veterinary healthcare team. If you are having difficulties with medication application, please speak to your veterinarian.

Appetite needs to be monitored closely upon discontinuation of this medication.

This medication will take effect quickly, in a few hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

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

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

When your pet will 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 medications can be given together.

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

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Mirtazapine should be stored in a 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.

Caution with oral disintegrating tablets as they may contain xylitol which is toxic to dogs and cats.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

#### POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication can affect the central nervous system causing sedation, lethargy, behavior changes, vocalization, hyperactivity, attention seeking and muscle tremors

This medication can affect the cardiovascular system causing low blood pressure and an elevated heart rate

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing vomiting and diarrhea

This medication can cause increased liver enzyme values in cats

If this medication is given with other serotonin increasing medications, it can cause Serotonin syndrome (elevated heart rate, tremors, dilated pupils, difficulty breathing, increase in body temperature and hyperactivity).

Transdermal formulations of this medication can cause ear flicking and head shaking as well as application site reactions such as redness, scabbing and hair loss

If you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian

This short-acting medication should stop working within 24-48 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 Mirtazapine in conjunction with amitraz, clonidine, cyproheptadine, diazepam, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, linezolid, selegiline and tramadol

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Mirtazapine

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, especially if appetite diminishes.

As with all prescribed medicines, Mirtazapine 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 Mirtazapine. If you have any questions or concerns about this medication or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.