

Prazosin - Main

Prazosin - Capsules (Cats)

Prazosin - Capsules (Dogs)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: A common consequence of heart disease is the inability to pump blood effectively to the rest of the body. This drug is a medication that is used in dogs and cats to relax the smooth muscles of blood vessels which causes dilation of the vessels, reduces blood pressure and helps the heart to work more efficiently. Prazosin is available as a capsule.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

An alpha-1 adrenergic blocker

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Due to its effects on the smooth muscles of blood vessels, it is used as an adjunct treatment for congestive heart failure and high blood pressure

Due to its effects on the smooth muscles of the lower urinary tract, it is used to reduce urethral resistance or promote urethral relaxation with functional urethral obstructions or spasms

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

This medication should be used with caution in animals with chronic kidney disease or lower blood pressure

This medication should be used with caution in dogs/breeds with the MDR1 gene mutation which affects drug metabolism

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.

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 may be a lifelong medication.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. With respect to heart disease, periodic blood work, 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.

This medication is commonly given with food.

Close monitoring of urination frequency and ease of urination is required for animals being treated for obstructive urinary tract disease.

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 TO TELL/ASK A VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

Common signs of heart disease in your pet

Common signs of lower urinary tract disease in your pet

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

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.

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Prazosin 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.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication can cause a drop in blood pressure resulting in hypotension, lethargy, dizziness and an increased heart rate

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

If you notice any of these symptoms, anything unusual, 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 DRUGS?

Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving Prazosin in conjunction with beta-blocking agents (propranolol), clonidine, nifedipine, sildenafil and verapamil

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Prazosin

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