

Levothyroxine Sodium - Main

Levothyroxine Sodium - Capsule (Cats)

Levothyroxine Sodium - Capsule (Dogs)

Levothyroxine Sodium - Oral Solution (Cats)

Levothyroxine Sodium - Oral Solution (Dogs)

Levothyroxine Sodium - Tablet (Cats)

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Trade Names:

Thyro-Tabs® Canine, ThyroKare™ Tablets

LEVOTHYROXINE SODIUM

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Levothyroxine is an oral thyroid hormone medication used in dogs and cats to treat hypothyroidism or other thyroid conditions due to low circulating thyroid hormone. It usually needs to be given for the life of the animal. Levothyroxine tablets, capsules and an oral solution are available from your veterinarian.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

Levothyroxine is a synthetic thyroid hormone

Levothyroxine is given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

To treat conditions associated with low circulating thyroid hormone (hypothyroidism). This is a common disease of middle aged and older pets (where the animal's thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormone)

Cats don't often receive Levothyroxine, but may be prescribed it for a short period to correct overtreatment of hyperthyroidism or if their thyroid gland was surgically removed

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Hyperthyroid animals (pets which produce too much thyroid hormone)

Use with extreme caution in older or debilitated animals, those with heart disease, high blood pressure, anemia, Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism) or diabetes

Pets who have ever had thyrotoxicosis or have an uncontrolled adrenal problem

Pregnant or nursing animals

Pets known to have had an allergic reaction to Levothyroxine 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. Levothyroxine is often a lifelong medication as long-term therapy is usually necessary for successful results.

Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. As long-term therapy is often required, periodic blood work to assess drug levels and monitor this medication's effects on the body is recommended. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or 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. Ensure your pet has fresh, clean drinking water at all times.

This medication can take a few weeks before full effects are observed, but gradual improvements are usually noticeable after a few days.

There are many different brands of thyroid replacement therapy. Differences do exist between brands. If you must change brands, your veterinarian may need to recheck thyroid hormone levels and adjust dosing accordingly.

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

Give any vitamin or mineral supplements an hour before or 4 hours after giving Levothyroxine.

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:

Thyroid hormone levels will need to be monitored with blood tests every few weeks until the dose is stabilized. Blood should be drawn 6-8 hours after the morning dose of medication. Schedule your appointment accordingly. Your veterinarian may also advise periodic liver and kidney function testing.

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 solution if instructed.

Thyroid hormone levels and clinical response will need to be closely monitored in your pet if switching between different formulations of Levothyroxine due to potential differences in dosages and bioavailability.

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 is usually well tolerated by dogs and cats when given at the correct dose

Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any of these symptoms: fast heart rate, increased respiratory rate, excessive ingestion of food, inability to tolerate heat, excitability, nervousness, lethargy, excessive panting

Thyroid hormone levels and clinical response will need to be closely monitored in your pet if switching between different formulations of levothyroxine due to potential differences in dosages and bioavailability.

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, as well as increased drinking and urination

This medication can affect the dermatological system causing skin inflammation (dermatitis), itchiness (pruritis), hair loss and ear infections

This medication can cause allergic-type reactions including itchiness (pruritis), hives and facial swelling

Long term use may cause osteoporosis (bone loss)

If you notice anything 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 Levothyroxine in conjunction with amiodarone, oral antacids, antidiabetic agents (insulin, oral medications), cholestyramine, corticosteroids, digoxin, epinephrine, ferrous sulfate, norepinephrine, proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole), rifampin, sertraline, sucralfate, theophylline, tricyclic antidepressants and warfarin

If you give your pet sucralfate (Carafate) or aluminum antacids (Maalox, Mylanta), give these products 4 hours before or after giving Levothyroxine

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Levothyroxine

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 consumes 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, Levothyroxine should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed. It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to Levothyroxine at regular checkups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving Levothyroxine.

This is just a summary of information about Levothyroxine. If you have any questions or concerns about Levothyroxine or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.