

Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid - Main

Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid - Capsule (Cats)

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid is a bile acid used in dogs and cats to treat certain liver and gallbladder diseases. This medication is commercially available as tablets and capsules and may be compounded into different formulations.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A naturally-occurring bile acid (ursodeoxycholic acid)

Given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Used as an adjunctive treatment for certain liver, gallbladder and bile duct diseases

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Safe use in pregnant or nursing pets is unknown

Use with caution in pets with complications of gallstones, such as pancreatitis, bile duct obstruction or inflammation of the gallbladder or bile ducts

Do not use in rabbits, guinea pigs or animals with similar digestive systems (very toxic to them)

If your pet has had an earlier allergic reaction to ursodiol or other bile acid-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. The length of use, frequency of administration, and expected improvement is dependent upon your pet's diagnosis, clinical response and initial reason for use.

Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug. Periodic blood work to assess the liver will be required to monitor this medication's effects on the body if long-term therapy is necessary. Dose adjustments or changes to the dosage schedule may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically.

This medication is commonly given with food due to its bitter taste. Give this medication with an oily/fatty meal unless otherwise instructed. Ensure your pet has access to plenty of fresh drinking water.

Commercially available Ursodiol may not be suitably sized for your pet. Your veterinarian may have a special formulation compounded for your pet to achieve the correct dose. Follow the labeled directions carefully. Shake liquids well before use and measure carefully.

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. Effects may not be visibly obvious and therefore laboratory tests may need to be done to evaluate this medication's effectiveness.

If you have difficulty giving this medication, contact your veterinarian.

Call ahead for refills. Ideally, give the medication at the same time(s) daily.

WHAT IF A 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

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 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.

Liquid forms should be discarded according to expiry date shown on label.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

This medication can cause a false elevation in bile acids and may require discontinuation for several days prior to performing bile acid testing.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and diarrhea in some animals

May worsen liver disease in some animals. Watch for vomiting, depression or jaundice (yellow gums, skin or eyes).

Possible depletion of the body's supply of taurine. Supplementation may be necessary in cats.

If you notice these symptoms or anything else 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 given in conjunction with aluminum-containing antacids (e.g. Amphojel, Maalox, Mylanta), cholestyramine (Questran®), estrogens, fenofibrate, gemfibrozil and taurine

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid

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, Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid 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 Ursodiol and Ursodeoxycholic Acid. If you have any questions or concerns about this product or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.