

Pimobendan - Main

Pimobendan - Capsule (Dogs)

Pimobendan - Chewable Tablet (Dogs)

Pimobendan - Injectable Solution (Dogs)

Trade Names:

Vetmedin® (pimobendan) Chewable Tablets, Vetmedin®-CA1 (pimobendan) Chewable Tablets

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Heart disease is common in dogs and may be present without any outward clinical symptoms. With early heart disease, pets may only have an abnormal heart sound (heart murmur) and an enlarged heart visible on a radiograph. As heart disease progresses, the heart can become unable to pump blood effectively to the rest of the body. Advanced heart disease results in a buildup of fluid in the lungs and outwards signs of heart failure such as labored breathing, increased respiratory rates, fainting and coughing are possible. Pimobendan is a cardiac drug that helps strengthen the heart's muscular contractions and dilates the blood vessels to reduce the heart's workload. Pimobendan is available as tablets, capsules and an injectable solution from your veterinarian.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

A cardiac drug (inodilator)

Pimobendan improves the ability of the heart to pump blood more efficiently

Often used in conjunction with other heart medications

Given by mouth or as an injection at your veterinary clinic

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

Used to manage the signs of mild, moderate or severe congestive heart failure in dogs 6 months of age or older due to mitral valve disease or dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM)

Used to delay the progression or onset of congestive heart failure due to mitral valve disease in dogs 6 months of age or older

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

Pets with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, aortic stenosis or any other condition where an increase in cardiac output is not recommended

This medication should be used with caution in pets with uncontrolled arrhythmias

Safety has not been evaluated in dogs less than 6 months of age, those with congenital heart defects, dogs with diabetes or other serious metabolic diseases, dogs used for breeding or pregnant or nursing dogs

Synthetic beef flavor is actually derived from pork. Use with caution in pets allergic to pork

If your pet has had an allergic reaction to Pimobendan or like products

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of Pimobendan is often given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed. The dose should be divided into two portions and given 12 hours apart.

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. Do not discontinue the drug abruptly or without directions from your veterinarian, as your pet's condition may worsen.

The duration of administration depends on the condition being treated, response to the medication and the development of any adverse effects. Be certain to complete the prescription unless specifically directed by your veterinarian. Even if your pet feels better, the entire treatment should be completed to prevent relapse. This medication may be used in an acute situation or used long-term.

Baseline blood work is recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. 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. It will be very important to follow your veterinarian's instructions regarding recheck appointments. 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.

Frequently Pimobendan is given with other drugs, especially in pets undergoing treatment for heart failure or arrhythmias.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days.

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

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.

Call ahead for refills.

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 any congenital heart defects

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.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Pimobendan is not for use in humans. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

Continue giving the medication but contact your veterinarian if your pet develops: decreased appetite, drowsiness, diarrhea, labored breathing, weakness, incoordination, behavior changes (anxiety, convulsions), excessive thirst and urination, and/or rapid heartbeat, fainting, accumulation of fluid in the lungs or abdomen and/or a cough

May increase the development of arrhythmias

Stop giving the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet has an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, swollen lips/tongue/face), experiences scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums and/or coma

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?

Treatment of congestive heart failure usually requires concurrent use of multiple medications. Pimobendan has been found to be safe for use with many cardiac drugs, including angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, diuretics and digoxin.

Possible interactions may occur with other positive inotropes, theophylline, pentoxifylline and drugs that are highly protein bound

Using beta-blockers (e.g. propranolol) or calcium channel blockers (e.g. verapamil) may decrease the effects of Pimobendan as well as medications such as diltiazem and atenolol

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Pimobendan

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