Itraconazole - Main

Itraconazole - Capsule (Cats)

Itraconazole - Capsule (Dogs)

Itraconazole - Oral Solution (Cats)

Itraconazole - Oral Solution (Dogs)

Itraconazole - Tablet (Cats)

Itraconazole - Tablet (Dogs)

General Description:

Itraconazole is an antifungal agent used in cats and dogs to treat both systemic and skin-related fungal infections. Itraconazole has fewer side effects than some other antifungal agents. This medication is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as capsules, tablets or as an oral solution.

What is this drug?

Antifungal

Given by mouth

Reasons for prescribing:

Broad spectrum antifungal with activity against both internal fungal infections and fungal infections affecting the skin, fur and nails

Animal Precautions:

This medication is labeled for use in cats and dogs and should be administered only when and as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian

Use of this medication in any other species should be in consultation with a veterinarian

Use of this prescribed medication in animals with any of the following conditions should be limited to those who are under the supervision of a veterinarian:

Kidney or cardiac disease

Liver disease

Debilitated or immunocompromised patients

Pets with low stomach acid

Safety has not been established in:

Pregnant or nursing animals

Young growing animals (use correct dosing)

Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to Itraconazole or similar antifungals should not be given this medication

Directions:

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

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

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 without directions from your veterinarian, as your pet's condition may worsen. The length of therapy depends greatly upon the disease condition as well as the pet's response to treatment and the development of any adverse effects.

Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work will be recommended to monitor the liver and kidneys. 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. Oral solutions are commonly given on an empty stomach while capsules tend to be absorbed better and have less of chance of causing an upset stomach with the addition of a fatty food (e.g. butter or cheese).

This medication should take effect within 1 to 2 days. You should see improvements but effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days. Treatment is usually for several weeks and should be continued until the patient has been cultured negative. Discontinuing medication too early may cause the disease to recur.

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

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

Call ahead for refills. Long-term therapy (a few weeks to months) is usually necessary for successful results.

If for some reason your pet needs antacids while on Itraconazole, give them two hours after Itraconazole is administered.

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:

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 safety concerns when using this product in different species

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.

For approved cat formulations, use the provided syringe and avoid inverting the bottle when withdrawing the solution.

Avoid contaminating oral solutions and discard 5 weeks after the solution has been opened.

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

Wash hands after handling this medication. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

Potential side effects:

This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing a decrease in appetite, anorexia, increase in salivation, vomiting, diarrhea and weight loss

This medication can cause fatigue, lethargy and depression

This medication can cause ulcerative skin concerns including inflammation of the blood vessels and limb swelling

This medication can affect the liver causing an increase in liver enzymes and bilirubin

This medication can also cause liver toxicity and death (jaundice - yellowing of gums, skin or eyes). If these symptoms are experienced, stop medication and have your veterinarian check the liver enzymes. After recovery, Itraconazole therapy can usually be resumed at a lower dose.

If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian

This moderate-acting medication should stop working in a few days, 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 Itraconazole in conjunction with amphotericin B, antacids, benzodiazepines (alprazolam, diazepam, midazolam), buspirone, busulfan, cannabidiol, calcium channel blockers (amlodipine, diltiazem), ciprofloxacin, cisapride, colchicine, corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide, cyclosporine, digoxin, disopyramide, doxorubicin, ergot alkaloids, fentanyl, H2-blockers (ranitidine, famotidine), ivermectin, isoniazid, loperamide, macrolide antibiotics (erythromycin, clarithromycin), methadone, meloxicam, midazolam, phenobarbital, phenytoin, proton-pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole), quinidine, phenytoin, rifampin, sildenafil, simvastatin, sulfonylurea antidiabetic agent (glipizide, glyburide), tricyclic antidepressants (clomipramine), vincristine, vinblastine and warfarin

Drugs other than those listed may also interact with Itraconazole

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 eats 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, Itraconazole 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, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

As therapy may be long-term, periodic bloodwork may be necessary to monitor the drug's effect on your pet's body.

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