



**Revised: September 30, 2024**

*Published: June 21, 2011*

## AMIKACIN - Full Version

**CPN:** 63005093

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

An injectable antibiotic used in dogs and cats to treat various serious bacterial infections (e.g. skin and soft tissue infections and urinary tract infections). **Amikacin** is available only as an injection which may be administered to your pet while in hospital.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A semi-synthetic aminoglycoside; an antibiotic
- Registered for use in dogs but may also be used by your veterinarian to treat your cat
- Most often given by injection (under the skin, in the muscle or in the vein) at veterinary hospitals

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Prescribed for infections that do not respond to more commonly used antibiotics
- Not used for routine infections due to its potential for toxicity

### ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is labeled for use in 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 disease, dehydration, fever or sepsis
  - Myasthenia gravis (an autoimmune neuromuscular disorder)
  - Heartworm positive animals
- Safety has not been established in:
  - Very young or very old animals
  - Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals

- Use with extreme caution in dogs in which hearing acuity is required (e.g. seeing eye, police dogs, military patrol dogs, etc.)
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to penicillin, aminoglycosides or other antibiotics should not be given this medication

## DIRECTIONS:

Although there are some risks involved with using **Amikacin** to treat your pet, it may be the only medicine effective against your pet's bacterial infection. The smallest dose possible will be used to minimize risks to your pet.

Blood testing may be necessary to ensure therapeutic levels and minimize toxicity.

A bacterial culture from the infection may be obtained for testing to ensure that **Amikacin** is the best choice.

This medication will be given for as long as your veterinarian feels is necessary. Duration of drug administration will also depend upon your pet's response to the medication and the development of any side effects.

If you see no improvement in your pet's condition after 3 days of treatment, contact your veterinarian as therapy may need to be discontinued and the case re-evaluated.

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

## WHAT IF A DOSE IS MISSED?

Not applicable

## 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, 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 vials at room temperature in a cool, dry place.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

People with allergies to penicillins or aminoglycoside antibiotics should not handle this drug since allergic reactions could occur from contact.

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- **Amikacin** is eliminated from the body by the kidneys and has the potential to cause kidney damage
- Reports of damage to the inner ear, causing irreversible deafness (especially cats). Early signs of damage include loss of balance, nausea and vomiting. Impairment may be reversible in the very early stages, but if treatment is continued, the condition becomes irreversible.
- Transient pain upon injection, facial swelling, allergic reactions, blood and liver disorders
- Rare cases of vomiting and diarrhea
- 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 with amphotericin B, some antibiotics, cisplatin, furosemide and other diuretics, heparin, methoxyflurane and muscle relaxants (non-depolarizing)

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian if your pet is experiencing any adverse effects.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

As with all prescribed medicines, **Amikacin** 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.

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

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

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