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## AMPHOTERICIN B - *Full Version*

**CPN:** 63005404

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

**Amphotericin B** is an injectable antifungal agent used to treat very serious fungal infections in dogs and cats. Because this medication is hard on the kidneys, pets are usually given intravenous fluids and hospitalized during treatment. Treatment may be repeated two to three times a week. Blood tests will need to be performed periodically to check kidney status during treatment.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A polyene antifungal drug
- Several injectable forms are available; liposomal **Amphotericin B** may exhibit fewer side effects, but is more expensive
- Given intravenously
- Registered for use in humans only, but can be prescribed legally by your veterinarian

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Treatment of serious fungal infections (systemic mycoses, septicemias and urinary tract infections)
- Treatment of the protozoal disease leishmaniasis
- Not effective against viral, bacterial or rickettsial infections

### ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is used off-label 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:
  - Poor kidney function

- Safety has not been established in:
  - Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to **Amphotericin B** or related products should not be given this medication

## DIRECTIONS:

**Amphotericin B** is administered intravenously at your veterinarian's office either by 'rapid infusion' (over 5 minutes), or by 'slow infusion' over 4-6 hours (in dogs only).

Your pet may need two to three treatments per week for several weeks.

Other treatment protocols (including other medications) may be used.

Patient tolerance varies greatly and the dosage will be individualized and adjusted according to the patient's clinical status.

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 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:

Prior to reconstitution, **Amphotericin B** should be stored in the fridge, protected against exposure to light. The reconstituted concentrate may be stored in the dark, at room temperature for 24 hours, or at refrigerator temperatures for one week with minimal loss of potency and clarity. Any unused drug should then be discarded.

Solutions prepared for intravenous infusion should be used promptly after preparation and should be protected from light during administration.

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

## POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Kidney damage (especially in cats), liver damage, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, muscle and joint pain
- Liposomal **Amphotericin B** preparations may exhibit fewer side effects, while having similar efficacy. Various preparations have recently been introduced. All of these are more expensive than plain **Amphotericin B**.
- If you think your pet has a medical problem or side effect from this product's therapy, 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 with aminoglycosides, anti-cancer drugs (e.g. cisplatin, doxorubicin, fluorouracil, methotrexate), corticosteroids, cyclosporine, digoxin and other antifungal drugs (e.g. fluconazole, flucytosine, ketoconazole, etc.)
- 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?

**Amphotericin B** overdoses can result in potentially fatal cardiac or cardiopulmonary arrest. If an overdose is suspected, therapy should be discontinued and the patient's clinical status monitored (e.g. cardiorespiratory, kidney, and liver function, serum electrolytes) and supportive therapy administered, as required.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

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

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

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

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