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AZITHROMYCIN - *Full Version*

CPN: 63000135

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

A macrolide antibiotic used to treat many bacterial infections in dogs and cats (e.g. dermatological infections). **Azithromycin** is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as tablets, oral suspension or as an injection.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A relatively broad-spectrum macrolide antibiotic
- Given by mouth
- Given by injection at your veterinary hospital

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Useful to treat a variety of bacterial, rickettsial and parasitic infections in dogs and cats

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:
 - Liver disease
- Safety has not been established in:
 - Breeding, pregnant and nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to macrolide antibiotics 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.

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. Finish the entire course of treatment.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Periodic blood work may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. 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.

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

Call ahead for refills.

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

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 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:

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

Pet owners allergic to macrolides and/or other antibiotics should avoid handling this drug.

Do not confuse **Azithromycin** with azathioprine.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. Contact veterinarian if pet experiences severe vomiting or diarrhea.
- Liver damage (signs include yellowing of gums, skin and/or eyes)
- It is important to stop therapy and contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your pet has a medical problem or side effect from this product's therapy
- 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 **Azithromycin** in conjunction with amiodarone, antacids, azole antifungals (ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole), cisapride, colchicine, cyclosporine, digoxin, dolasetron, doxorubicin, erythromycin, estriol, leflunomide, methotrexate, ondansetron, phenytoin, pimozide, procainamide, quinidine, quinolones, sotalol, tacrolimus, theophylline, vincristine and warfarin
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Azithromycin**
- 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 receives 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.

This antibiotic is not effective for treating *Chlamydophila felis* or *Mycoplasma haemofelis* infection in cats

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

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

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