

DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



Revised: November 27, 2023

Published: March 11, 2009

BUPRENORPHINE - Full Version

CPN: 63000159

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Buprenorphine is used to relieve mild to moderate pain. **Buprenorphine** is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as an injectable product and transdermal product for use in the clinic, but it can be used at home as an oral drop. This medication is absorbed locally within the mouth (transmucosal) and not swallowed. Simply apply the drug to the inside of the cheek or side of the mouth and it will be absorbed by the tissues in this location.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- A potent analgesic or pain reliever
- Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), **Buprenorphine** is a controlled substance. This is a medication that has the potential for abuse. These medications can assist in providing appropriate patient care but also require a valid veterinary client-patient relationship and a veterinary prescription. Further legislation regarding storage, prescription, dispensing, and record keeping have been put in place to prevent drug abuse.
- Marketed as an injectable product (for use in the clinic), it can be used at home as an oral drop (applied to the inside of the cheek pouch or side of the mouth for transmucosal absorption)

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To treat mild to moderate pain
- Can be used in conjunction with other premedicants or as a preanesthetic agent for pain control prior to surgery
- Can be used in conjunction with other medications for a local anesthetic or an epidural

ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is labeled for use in cats 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:
 - Severe kidney disease
 - Liver disease or biliary tract disease
 - Heart failure or respiratory compromise
 - Head trauma or central nervous system disorders
 - Addison's disease or hypothyroidism
 - Pediatric, geriatric or debilitated animals
- Safety has not been established in:
 - Pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or other related drugs should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

Injectable and transdermal medications are administered in the safety of the hospital by trained veterinary staff due to serious life threatening events that can occur with accidental exposure. Transdermal medications are applied to the surface of the skin which are slowly absorbed into circulation. Transdermal applications can result in various blood concentrations and due to individual variability may not provide adequate analgesia in all species. Transdermal medications are ideally applied before a painful stimulus as it can take 1-2 hours before onset of action. With transdermal applications, appropriate gloves, glasses and clothing are required to prevent direct contact with this opioid medication.

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

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

Note that doses are very small for this powerful drug, so ensure that you are giving the exact prescribed amount.

Squirt the medication just under the tongue or into the cheek pouch for maximum effect.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug. Dose adjustments may be made based upon an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically. It is not uncommon to require dose adjustments if pain levels escalate.

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. Do not allow your pet to eat aged cheese while taking

buprenorphine. It may cause a dangerous rise in body temperature and blood pressure.

Do not give this medication with any other over the counter medications that are used for treating pain without consulting your veterinarian.

This medication will take effect quickly, in less than 1 hour. Improvements in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

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

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 safety concerns when using this product in different species
- 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 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 and direct sunlight.

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

Due to the potential for abuse, **Buprenorphine** should be stored in a locked cabinet.

Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- This medication can affect the central nervous system causing sedation and rarely respiratory depression
- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing reduced appetite, anorexia, salivation and vomiting
- This medication may cause a reduced heart rate and blood pressure
- If this medication has been compounded into a topical skin application for transdermal application, it may cause localized skin irritation
- If you see any significant behavior, respiratory or cardiac changes or notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian
- When giving by transmucosal route, this short-acting medication should stop working within several hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease
- When giving by injection, this short-acting medication will stop working quickly following discontinuation of administration. Mild side effects may continue to persist for several hours in certain individuals.

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving buprenorphine in conjunction with anticonvulsants (phenobarbital, phenytoin), azole antifungals (fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole), benzodiazepines, cisapride, central nervous system depressants (anesthetic agents, antihistamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, phenothiazines, tranquilizers), cyclobenzaprine, desmopressin, erythromycin, fentanyl, halothane, local anesthetics (bupivacaine, mepivacaine), metoclopramide, monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors, naloxone, pancuronium, phenobarbital, rifampin, serotonergic agents (clomipramine, fluoxetine, mirtazapine, trazodone) and tramadol
- If your pet is taking a MAOI product, a 2-week waiting period is necessary before initiating treatment with **Buprenorphine**
- Drugs other than those listed may interact with **Buprenorphine**
- 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.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Buprenorphine** 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, at the prescribed dose, as directed by your veterinarian.

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

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