

DVMetrics Client Information Sheets for Veterinary Medications



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BUTORPHANOL TARTRATE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63000176

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Butorphanol is a short-acting analgesic and cough suppressant used in dogs and cats. Low doses are useful for cough suppression while higher doses will ease pain. The injectable form is often used at your veterinary hospital, but oral tablets may be used at home for pain relief. **Butorphanol** is a controlled substance that will require a licensed veterinarian's prescription.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- **Butorphanol** is a short-acting analgesic and cough suppressant
- Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), **Butorphanol** 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.
- **Butorphanol** is given by mouth or by injection at your veterinary hospital

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Low doses are useful for cough suppression (without causing slow or shallow breathing)
- Higher doses are useful for pain relief
- The injectable form is often used as a pre-anesthetic tranquilizer and also for pain relief post-surgery (rapid action, although short-lived)
- Used during cancer chemotherapy to prevent nausea and vomiting

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:
 - Liver and kidney disease
 - Hypothyroidism or hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease)
 - Pneumonia or other respiratory conditions where a lot of mucus is produced
 - Head trauma, central nervous system conditions or hydrocephalus
 - Heartworm disease
 - Older or debilitated animals
- Safety has not been established in:
 - Pregnant or nursing animals
- This medication should not be used in animals that require full alertness when performing, e.g. guide dogs, police dogs, search and rescue dogs, etc.
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or other related drugs should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable form of this medication would be given in the safety of a veterinary hospital with adequate patient monitoring and is rarely prescribed for use at home.

For oral formulations, 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.

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 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 an hour. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

Ideally, give the medication at the same time 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 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.

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

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

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- This medication can affect the central nervous system causing abnormal pupil size, sedation, lethargy, incoordination, disorientation, and staggering while in some animals it may cause over-excitement
- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing inappetence, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation
- This medication may cause an increase in saliva production and an increase of mucous in the airways
- This medication may cause a slower heart rate and a slower respiratory rate
- Since **Butorphanol** may partially reverse effects of other tranquilizers or pain relievers, discuss any other drugs you may be administering to your pet
- If you notice anything unusual, discontinue use and contact your veterinarian
- This short-acting medication should stop working in a few 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 occur when giving **Butorphanol** in conjunction with ACE inhibitors (benazepril, enalapril), amlodipine, anesthetic agents, anticholinergics (atropine, glycopyrrolate), antidiarrheals, anticonvulsants, antihistamines, apomorphine, atenolol, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, bromocriptine, cannabis, carvedilol, clopidogrel, cimetidine, desmopressin, diuretics (furosemide), fenoldopam, erythromycin, fluoxetine, hydralazine, ifosfamide, inhalant anesthetics (isoflurane, sevoflurane), itraconazole, lithium, metoclopramide, minocycline, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (selegiline), muscle relaxers, nitroglycerin, nitroprusside, opioids (fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine, oxymorphone), pancuronium phenoxybenzamine, phenothiazines, polyethylene glycol, sedatives, sertraline, tamsulosin, theophylline, tramadol, tranquilizers and tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine)
- Drugs other than those listed may interact with **Butorphanol**
- 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 consumes more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

If your pet received **Butorphanol** as a sedative prior to surgery or as a pain relief medication following surgery, it may take a while for the medications to wear off. Some animals can appear drowsy and tired but your pet's behavior should gradually return to normal. Some animals experience nausea after an anesthetic. Try to divide their meals into smaller portions to reduce the risk of inappetence or vomiting.

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

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

It is important to periodically discuss your pet's response to **Butorphanol** at regular check ups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your pet is responding as expected and if your pet should continue receiving **Butorphanol**.

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

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