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HYDROMORPHONE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63009936

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Hydromorphone is chemically similar but stronger than morphine. Its efficacy and duration of action is comparable to oxymorphone. It is used as a pain relief medication. It is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as tablets, capsules, oral liquid and an injectable solution.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- An opioid analgesic or pain medication that affects mu-opioid receptors in the body
- Under U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), **Hydromorphone** 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.
- Given by mouth or as an injection into the vein (IV), into the muscle (IM) or under the skin (SQ)

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- To relieve moderate to severe pain from conditions such as trauma and cancer
- Can be used as a preanesthetic agent or administered as an epidural for pain control prior to surgery

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:
 - Severe liver or acute abdominal discomfort
 - Acute or severe kidney disease
 - Chronic heart failure, low heart rates (bradycardia), respiratory disease or acute respiratory dysfunction
 - Head injuries, brain tumors, hydrocephalus or other conditions causing an increase in intracranial pressure
 - Adrenal or thyroid conditions
 - Pediatric, geriatric or debilitated animals
 - Diarrhea due to the ingestion of a toxic substance
 - Animals that have been stung by certain species of scorpions as it can potentiate the venom
- 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 opioid-like drugs should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of **Hydromorphone** is often 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.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this drug.

Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your pet is responding clinically. It is not uncommon to require dose adjustments if pain levels escalate.

With oral administration, this medication often requires frequent administration because of low oral bioavailability. If using sustained or extended release products, do not crush or break the tablets or capsules.

When given by injection, this medication will start to have effects within the body immediately.

When given orally, this medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement in clinical signs should follow.

Call ahead for refills.

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

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

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:

- Common signs of pain or discomfort in your pet
- When your pet will 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 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 medications can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Hydromorphone should be stored in a childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

If using sustained or extended release products, do not crush or break the tablets as this can result in an overdose and death.

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 result in sedation as well as reduce respiratory function
- This medication can affect the central nervous system resulting in behaviour changes such as restlessness, vocalizing, panting, and tremors, especially in cats

- This medication can affect the gastrointestinal system causing loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and constipation
- This medication commonly stimulates dogs to defecate after the first dose
- This medication can result in changes to body temperature
- This medication can affect the cardiovascular system causing a slower heart rate and lower blood pressure
- This medication can affect the bladder tone resulting in urinary retention
- If given rapidly into the vein, this medication can cause histamine release, agitation, and respiratory changes
- If these symptoms persist or you notice anything else unusual, contact your veterinarian
- When given by injection, this short-acting medication should stop working within a couple of hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver and kidney disease
- When given orally, this short-acting medication should stop working within a couple of hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver and kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Hydromorphone** in conjunction with butorphanol, CNS depressants, diuretics, monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (amitraz, selegiline), muscle relaxants, nalbuphine, phenothiazines, tricyclic antidepressants (clomipramine, amitriptyline) and warfarin
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Hydromorphone**
- 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.

Hydromorphone is a controlled substance and should not be given to anyone. As with all prescribed medicines, **Hydromorphone** 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 **Hydromorphone**. If you have any questions or concerns about this medication or the condition for which it was prescribed, please contact your veterinarian.

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