



Revised: February 11, 2025

Published: March 13, 2009

METOCLOPRAMIDE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63000686

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Metoclopramide is a drug used in dogs and cats to stimulate upper gastrointestinal tract motility and helps to reduce the symptoms of nausea and vomiting. **Metoclopramide** is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as tablets and as an oral syrup.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- Prokinetic (upper gastrointestinal tract motility stimulant) and anti-emetic
- May be given by injection in the veterinary clinic or may be given by mouth

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- As an anti-emetic, it prevents nausea and vomiting by normalizing stomach motility
- Moves food and hairballs from the stomach into the intestines
- Prevent esophageal reflux (stomach acid backing up into the esophagus)
- Used after surgery and during cancer chemotherapy to prevent nausea and vomiting

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:
 - Pheochromocytoma (a rare adrenal tumor)
 - History of seizures
 - Suspected stomach or intestinal obstruction, bleeding or perforation, or recent stomach surgery
 - Kidney disease, diabetes or high blood pressure
- Safety has not been established in:

- Pregnant or nursing animals
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products (e.g. PABA sunscreens) should not be given this medication

DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of **Metoclopramide** 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. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work may be recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. Dose adjustments may be made based upon an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

Metoclopramide should be given 15-30 minutes before a meal. Give each dose with plenty of water. If your pet experiences digestive upset following medication administration, try offering with a small amount of food or a treat.

Oral suspensions are available but are often unpalatable to pets.

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours. Improvement 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
- 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 any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- 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.

Metoclopramide is very similar to the sunscreen ingredient PABA. Humans allergic to sunscreens should avoid contact with **Metoclopramide**.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Animals predisposed to seizures may experience seizures. This should not happen in 'normal' animals.
- Drowsiness, or marked hyperactivity, frenzy and/or disorientation
- Constipation, behavior and attitude changes
- If you notice any of these symptoms or anything else unusual, discontinue **Metoclopramide** and contact your veterinarian
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 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 acetaminophen, anticholinergics (atropine, dimenhydrinate, diphenhydramine, glycopyrrolate), aspirin/acetylsalicylic acid, apomorphine, bethanechol, butyrophenones (azaperone, droperidol), cephalixin, central nervous system depressants (anesthetic agents, antihistamines, anxiolytics, barbiturates, phenothiazines, sedatives, tranquilizers), cyclosporine, dopamine and dopaminergic drugs (bromocriptine, cabergoline), monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (amitraz, selegiline, Anipryl, Preventic Flea Collar), mirtazapine, opioid analgesics, phenothiazine (acepromazine, chlorpromazine), Posaconazole, propofol, quinidine, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (fluoxetine), tetracyclines, tramadol, tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine) and xylazine.
- Since **Metoclopramide** increases the movement of gastrointestinal contents, it can affect the absorption rates of many oral drugs
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Metoclopramide**
- 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.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Metoclopramide** 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 **Metoclopramide**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Metoclopramide** or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

All trademarks cited are the property of their respective owners.



THIS SERVICE AND INCLUDED DATA ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY. Without limiting the foregoing, the service and data are based on third party data, and DVMetrics & Services is not responsible or liable for such third-party data. Each user assumes full risk, responsibility, and liability related to use of the service and data. The service and data are further subject to the Terms of Use.

© 2026 DVMetrics & Services LLC