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## METRONIDAZOLE - Full Version

CPN: 63000707

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

**Metronidazole** is an antibiotic that is commonly used in dogs and cats to treat diarrhea and infections caused by anaerobic bacteria. It can also be used to treat some intestinal parasites, especially *Giardia* spp. **Metronidazole** is available by prescription from your licensed veterinarian as capsules, tablets, oral solutions and an injectable formulation.

### WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- **Metronidazole** is an antibiotic and an antiprotozoal
- Given by mouth and by intravenous (into the vein) infusion

### REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Effective against certain protozoal infections, especially *Giardia*
- Used to treat colitis/inflammatory bowel disease
- Used to treat central nervous system and oral/dental infections
- Used as an antidiarrhea medication
- Used sometimes in cancer radiotherapy

### ANIMAL PRECAUTIONS:

- This medication is labeled for use in dogs but is commonly used off-label 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:
  - Liver or kidney disease
  - Circulating blood cell abnormality
  - Debilitated or geriatric animals
- Safety has not been established in:

- Pregnant or nursing animals
- Use with caution in working dogs as it can cause a decrease in olfactory abilities
- Animals with a known hypersensitivity or allergy to this or related products should not be given this medication

## DIRECTIONS:

The injectable formulation of **Metronidazole** 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.

This medication is usually given once or twice daily. The length of therapy depends upon the disease condition as well as your pet's response to **Metronidazole**. Finish the entire course of treatment.

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

For liquids, shake well before accurately measuring the dose. The oral form of this medication has a bitter taste. Disguising it with food may help you administer this drug successfully. After administration, watch the pet closely to ensure the entire dose was consumed.

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

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.  
Call ahead for refills.

## 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:

Oral formulations should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight. Shake solutions well before using.

Injectable formulations that require reconstitution are still light sensitive and should be used within 24 hours.

**Metronidazole** normally has a strong sulfurous odor which may smell like cat urine.

**Metronidazole** can cause excessive salivation due to its bitter taste.

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:

Generally side effects are not seen unless the pet is taking a very high dose or for a prolonged period of time (months). Side effects seen are:

- This medication may affect the gastrointestinal system causing a decrease in appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and oral inflammation
- This medication can affect the circulating white blood cells causing a reduction in neutrophils or neutropenia
- This medication can cause liver damage (yellowing of gums, eyes, skin)
- This medication can affect the urinary system causing a brown discoloration to the urine as well as blood in the urine
- This medication can affect the neurological system causing weakness, stumbling, knuckling of the paws, head tilt to one side, dilated pupils, bizarre back and forth movements of the eye (called nystagmus) or seizures (cats)
- If you notice anything unusual, discontinue use 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 when giving **Metronidazole** in conjunction with busulfan, cimetidine, cyclosporine, fluorouracil, phenobarbital, phenytoin, sedatives or tranquilizers, warfarin, and products with alcohol as an ingredient
- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Metronidazole**
- 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, **Metronidazole** 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 **Metronidazole**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Metronidazole** or the condition for which it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

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