

Metronidazole

(Flagyl)

Common Drug Name

Metronidazole

Common Brand Names

Flagyl, Metizol, Protostat, Metrogel

Generic products are available.

Storage

Refrigerate oral suspension. Store other forms at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Oral liquids should be shaken well before use and stored in the refrigerator.

Uses

Metronidazole is an antibiotic and antiprotozoal medication. It is used for the treatment of many types of infections, including one-celled intestinal parasites such as *Giardia*, in a variety of animal species.

Dose and Administration Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Duration of treatment depends on reason for and response to treatment.

Tablets are given by mouth and may have fewer side effects if given with food.

The tablet is bitter and may cause your pet to salivate or refuse treatment. Do not crush the tablet. Monitor after giving the medication orally to be sure all of it was consumed.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

If the pill has prolonged contact with the mouth or is crushed or chewed, it may cause excessive salivation and pawing at the mouth.

Side effects include nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, weakness, anemia, blood in the urine, head tilt, seizures, disorientation, and stumbling. It may also cause liver disease, which can result in yellowing of the gums, skin, and eyes. Damage to nerves is also possible, and may result in the animal stumbling or knuckling over on the paws. If you notice any of these side effects, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to the drug or its derivatives.

Metronidazole can cause birth defects in some species. Not for use in debilitated, pregnant, or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young) unless benefits outweigh the risks.

Use with extreme caution in debilitated animals or those with liver or kidney disease.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with metronidazole.

Drug, Food and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using metronidazole with any other medications; including vitamins and supplements, oral anticoagulants, cimetidine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, sedatives or tranquilizers since interactions may occur.

It may increase the blood levels of phenytoin.

No known food interactions.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose Signs of toxicity can occur with acute overdoses or long-term use. Signs include lack of appetite, vomiting, stumbling, nystagmus (eyes move rapidly back and forth), knuckling over at the joints, disorientation, stiffness, rigidity, and seizures.

Signs may not resolve until the pet is off of the medication for several days.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.