

# Mitoxantrone

other names for this medication: Novantrone ®

## How Is This Medication Useful?

Mitoxantrone is used to treat resistant lymphoma, carcinomas and hemangiopericytomas in dogs and cats.

## Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause Problems?

Mitoxantrone should not be used if your pet has certain types of heart disease. It can be used safely with some heart problems, but ultrasound of the heart to see if your pet is a candidate is required first.

If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

## What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

Like many chemotherapy drugs, mitoxantrone decreases the ability of the bone marrow to produce blood cells which may result in anemias, increased risk for infection, or bleeding/bruising. If your pet shows signs of lack of energy, weakness, infection, bruising or bleeding you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

Mitoxantrone may cause loss of appetite, stomach upset, or diarrhea. If necessary, give the anti-nausea or diarrhea pills you have, as needed, and call your vet to let them know you have used these drugs.

Like many chemotherapy drugs, mitoxantrone should not be used in pregnant or nursing dogs or cats, or in male pets to be used for breeding.

Mitoxantrone can occasionally cause seizures in cats.

## How Should It Be Given?

Dogs and cats usually get this drug intravenously every 2-3 weeks, depending on the dose and how your pet handles the drug.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

As mitoxantrone can cause immune suppression in humans, you should wear gloves and wash hands after giving this medication. Pet owners who are pregnant, breast-feeding or trying to conceive should not handle this medication.

Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Mitoxantrone should be used with caution with other drugs that might suppress the bone marrow. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian. Modified Live vaccines should never be given to any animal on cancer chemotherapy.

Mitoxantrone is eliminated from the body primarily in the kidneys. Any urine from this animal should be cleaned up with gloves for at least 5 days after the last treatment. Waste should be disposed of in a sealed plastic bag.