

Cisapride

Propulsid® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Cisapride stimulates your animal's gastrointestinal tract to move and is useful in treating chronic constipation or other conditions where the gastrointestinal tract has stopped moving food and waste.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

Although this has not been reported in animals, serious drug interactions between antihistamines and antibiotics and cisapride have caused death in people. For this reason, cisapride is no longer available for humans. You should tell your veterinarian about any drugs or other products that your pet is taking.

Cisapride should not be given to animals who have an immovable obstruction in their gastrointestinal tract as this will worsen the condition.

Cisapride should be used with caution in animals with heart conditions as cisapride may affect heart rate and beat.

Cisapride has caused birth defects in laboratory animals and should not be used in pregnant animals.

Cisapride is removed from the body by the liver and should be used carefully in pets with liver disease.

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?

The most common side effects are diarrhea and increased bowel activity. Your pet may initially experience some abdominal cramping when cisapride is given.

Cisapride may also cause your pet to become more excited than usual in higher doses. You should notify your veterinarian immediately if you notice that your pet seems more restless than usual.

How Should It Be Given?

The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist, who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.

Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.

Cisapride is no longer commercially available and must be compounded by your pharmacist. If you receive a liquid form of cisapride, make sure you shake it well in the container before opening it.

If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.

Dogs and Cats: These pets usually receive cisapride two to three times daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

Cisapride is no longer commercially available and will have to be compounded by your pharmacist.

Cisapride should be protected from light and moisture.

This drug should not be given to any human household members as it can cause fatal side effects in humans who are also receiving certain medications such as antihistamines and antibiotics.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook