

Pyrantel Pamoate

Nemex® and Strongid-T® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Pyrantel is an orally administered anthelmintic (dewormer) that is effective against a variety of worms in dogs, cats, and other animals (hookworms, roundworms, stomach worms, etc). It is also used to treat pinworms in humans.

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

Pyrantel should be used with caution in severely debilitated animals.
 When there is frequent vomiting, and injectable dewormer such as ivermectin, or a topical dewormer such as Profender should be considered.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

Side effects are uncommon with this medication. Occasionally some animals may vomit after receiving it by mouth.
 While very safe at usual doses, large overdoses of pyrantel given over a period of time can cause serious effects.

How Should It Be Given?

Be certain to give this drug exactly as your veterinarian prescribes. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication or re-treatment may be necessary. 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.
 If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it. Do not double doses as this will not increase the effectiveness of the treatment.
 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.
 Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally once and then the dose is repeated at least once every one to three weeks. The reason for repeating the dose is that the drug is not effective against larvae, and larvae that are missed with the first dose must be treated again later, when they have matured and are susceptible to pyrantel pamoate.
 Pyrantel is dosed at 1 cc per 10 pounds body weight. Minimum dose of 0.5 cc is usually given to small dogs, cats, puppies and kittens, less than 5 pounds.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

Pyrantel should be stored at room temperature in a tight, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
 If using the oral suspension be sure to shake it well before giving.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook