

Ranitidine

Zantac® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Ranitidine is used to decrease acid secretion in the stomach and protect against the formation of ulcers.
- It may also be used to stimulate movement of the stomach and intestines in cases of intestinal stoppage.

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

- Ranitidine should be used carefully in animals with heart disease as it may cause irregular heart beats in these animals if given by injection.
- Ranitidine should also be used carefully in animals with liver and kidney disease as the drug is removed from the body by these organs and may accumulate if these organs are not working properly.
- Ranitidine may cause increases in liver enzymes indicating damage to the liver. If your pet is going to receive ranitidine for a long time at a high dose, your veterinarian will want you to come back into the clinic frequently to have its liver checked.
- 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?

- There are few side effects associated with ranitidine, but some animals may experience diarrhea due to the stimulant effect on the intestines. Some animals may also have an irregular heartbeat and pain at the injection site when ranitidine is injected. If your pet experiences these side effects, contact your veterinarian.

How Should It Be Given?

- Ranitidine should be given on an empty stomach, as giving with food will cause acid secretion before the drug starts to work.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 usually receive this drug orally two to three times daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Ranitidine tablets and liquid should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook