

Levothyroxine

Soloxine®, Thyro-Tabs®, Thyro-L®, Thyro-Form®, Synthroid® or L-thyroxine are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Levothyroxine is used to treat pets that don't make enough thyroid hormone.

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

- Levothyroxine should not be given to animals with heart conditions or those who are producing too much thyroid hormone. It should be introduced carefully in animals with diabetes or Addison's disease. If your pet is diabetic, you may have to adjust the amount of insulin you give after levothyroxine is started.
- 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?

- If administered at the correct dose, levothyroxine should not cause any side effects. If too much levothyroxine is given, your pet may experience racing heartbeat, excessive thirst and urination, excessive hunger, excitation and restlessness, panting and nervousness. If your pet shows these signs, you should contact your veterinarian.
- Some species of red-feathered birds may start growing yellow feathers after treatment with levothyroxine.
- Levothyroxine can severely alter the results of laboratory tests. You should tell your veterinarian that your pet is taking levothyroxine before any laboratory testing is performed.

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.
- 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.
- 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 usually receive levothyroxine orally once or twice daily. Cats do not usually receive levothyroxine but may receive it for short periods of time to correct overtreatment of hyperthyroidism.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

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

References:

Plumb Veterinary Drug Handbook