

Selegilene

Anipryl®, Eldepryl® and L-deprenyl are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Selegilene is mostly used to treat confusion (dementia) caused by old age in animals. It is also used to treat some kinds of Cushing's Disease in dogs.

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

- Selegilene should not be used in animals that are allergic or are allergic to drugs like it.
- Selegilene inhibits an enzyme in the body called monoamine oxidase (MAO). When combined with certain drugs, it can cause serious (even fatal) increases in blood pressure. Aged cheese can also cause this effect, so make sure that your pets do not get into any aged cheese while on this drug. It should not be given with 5 weeks after drugs such as fluoxetine (Prozac®), phenylpropanolamine (Proin®), some narcotic pain killers (Demerol®, Ultram®, tramadol), or amitriptyline (Elavil®). Also, in most cases, selegilene should be stopped for at least 2 weeks before any of these other drugs are started. You should tell your veterinarian about any medication or unusual food that you give your pet.
- Although laboratory studies have not shown any birth defects, selegilene should probably not be used in pregnant animals until further information is available.
- 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?

- Some animals may experience loss of appetite, excessive drooling, stomach upset (vomiting or diarrhea), tiredness, confusion, loss of hearing and trembling.
- Some animals may develop itching.
- Other animals may develop repetitive behaviors such as walking in circles or becoming obsessed with something they ordinarily would not be interested in.
- If your animal's eyes are slow to respond to changes in light (pupils do not get smaller in bright light) or your animal is panting excessively, it may be overdosed and you should take your pet to a veterinarian immediately as this can be life-threatening.

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, 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: Selegilene should be given orally once daily in the morning for dogs and in the evening if used in cats. You should not give aged cheese or use tick collars containing amitraz (Mitaban®, Seresto®) while your pet is taking this medication.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

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

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook