

CHLOROTHIAZIDE – HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE

Trade name – Diuril ®

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Chlorothiazide and hydrochlorothiazide are diuretics. They are used to help reduce the amount of water in the pet's body by increasing the flow of urine. These medications are also used to treat high blood pressure by decreasing the workload of the heart and arteries. They are also used for treating a rare hormonal disorder called Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus (NDI), and to prevent calcium oxalate bladder stones.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian. Read the label carefully.
- Give this medication with meals.
- If the medicine is a liquid, measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed and do not give more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.

What if I miss giving a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

Potential Side Effects

- If the following symptoms are noted, contact your veterinarian: excessive thirst, drowsiness, weakness, restlessness, diminished urination in relation to fluid intake, stomach upset, or a fast heart rate.
- Thiazide diuretics should not be given to pregnant animals, animals with severe kidney or liver disease, diabetes mellitus, lupus or gout.
- Thiazide diuretics can cause low potassium levels, resulting in weakness.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

Possible Drug Interactions

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving to your pet.
- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, even if a drug interaction may occur. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with chlorothiazide/hydrochlorothiazide:
 - **Amphotericin B, Corticosteroids (prednisone, dexamethasone), Corticotropin:** Use with thiazides can lead to an increased risk for severe potassium loss.

- **Diazoxide:** Increased risk for low blood sugar, aggravation of gout, and low blood pressure may occur.
- **Digitalis, Digoxin:** Thiazide-induced low potassium, magnesium, and/or high calcium levels may increase the likelihood of digitalis toxicity.
- **Insulin:** Thiazides may increase insulin requirements.
- **Lithium:** Thiazides can increase serum lithium concentrations.
- **Methenamine:** Thiazides can reduce effectiveness.
- **NSAIDs (Rimadyl®, Deramaxx®, Previcox®, Zubrin®, Metacam®, Onsior®, etc.) :** Thiazides may increase risk for renal toxicity and NSAIDs may reduce diuretic actions of thiazides.
- **Probenecid:** Blocks thiazide-induced uric acid retention which might worsen gout (used to therapeutic advantage).
- **Quinidine:** activity may be prolonged by thiazides.
- **Vitamin D or Calcium Salts:** Calcium levels may be increased if thiazides are concurrently administered with Vitamin D or calcium salts.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.