

Enrofloxacin

Baytril® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

Enrofloxacin is an antibiotic that is useful against a wide variety of infections in animals.

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

- Enrofloxacin can cause the growth plates on bones to stop growing in young animals. It should probably not be used in pets less than one year of age unless the benefits of treatment outweigh the risks of damaging growth (for example, a life threatening infection).
- Enrofloxacin may cause crystals in the kidneys of animals that are dehydrated. Dehydration may also increase the risk of seizures if your pet is taking enrofloxacin. This drug should not be given if your cat becomes dehydrated.
- Doses higher than 5mg/kg (2.2mg/lb.) per day have caused blindness in cats, especially when it is given intravenously. For this reason, this drug is usually not used at high doses in cats.
- You should always give all of the medication as directed by your veterinarian. If the entire course of treatment is not finished, the germ causing the infection may become stronger than the antibiotics and cause a worsening infection. Giving enrofloxacin irregularly can possibly cause this problem.
- Animals with decreased kidney and liver function may need to receive lower doses of enrofloxacin as these animals cannot efficiently eliminate the drug from their body.
- 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?

- The most likely side effects seen in some animals given enrofloxacin are stomach upset, vomiting, and a lack of appetite.
- Seizures and kidney damage can rarely occur in animals that are dehydrated.
- Dizziness and hallucinations occur in humans, but have not been documented in animals.
- At doses greater than 5mg/kg (2.2 mg/lb) per day, enrofloxacin can rarely cause severe damage to cat's eyes resulting in blindness, especially when it is given intravenously. Sometimes the cat will show dilated pupils as an early indicator of this toxicity. If you notice this in your cat, you should stop giving Baytril and contact your veterinarian immediately.

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.
- 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. Iron, aluminum, dairy or calcium products can inactivate enrofloxacin. Do not give these products 1 hour before or 2 hours after administration of enrofloxacin.
- Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive this medication orally once or twice daily. Sometimes veterinarians will instruct pet owners to give injections of enrofloxacin under the skin to their pets once or twice daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Enrofloxacin should only be used in animals as it causes hallucinations in people.
- Enrofloxacin should be used very carefully in animals with a history of epilepsy.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook