

Levetiracetam

Keppra® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Levetiracetam is used to treat dogs with epilepsy, along with other anti-seizure medications.

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

- Levetiracetam should not be used in pregnant or nursing mothers as it can cause fetal death and abortion.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Levetiracetam can rarely cause sleepiness, like most of the other antiseizure drugs.
- This drug is irritating to the gastrointestinal tract and can cause vomiting. Giving with food may decrease this effect.
- Levetiracetam is a relatively new drug, and we are still learning about its use in dogs.

How Should It Be Given?

- Levetiracetam should be given with food.
- 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, and give the next scheduled dose next time it is due.
- 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 this drug orally twice to three times daily for life.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Levetiracetam should be stored in a childproof container away from all children and other household pets.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook