

Maropitant

Cerenia® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Maropitant is indicated for the prevention and treatment of acute vomiting and motion sickness in dogs. Both are also used extra-label in cats.
- Maropitant has also been used for many other purposes, including cough suppression, pain due to sterile cystitis, neurologic pain and itchy skin.

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

- Maropitant should be used with caution in animals with liver disease, as it is metabolized by the liver. Dose may need to be reduced.
- Maropitant should be used with caution in puppies less than 11 weeks old, as it can contribute to bone marrow suppression.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- When used at the higher dose for motion sickness, salivation and nausea can occur shortly after administration.
- Injections can cause pain or swelling at the injection site. Keeping the solution refrigerated, injecting slowly and using a larger bore needle have been used to reduce pain on injection.

How Should It Be Given?

- Maropitant can be given with or without food.
- It is given at different doses for acute vomiting and motion sickness
- Maropitant is usually given once every 24 hours, by injection under the skin, or by mouth.
- No drug interactions with Maropitant have been identified.
- Maropitant should not be given more than 5 days in a row at the lower acute vomiting dose. It can be given for 5 days, and then skip 1-2 days, and then 5 more days if long term use is necessary.
- Maropitant should not be given more than 2 days in a row at the higher motion sickness dose. It can be given for 5 days, and then skip 3 days, and then 2 more days if repeated use is necessary.
- Tablets should not be tightly wrapped or embedded in food/snacks as this may delay dissolution of tablets.
- Avoid prolonged fasting before administration of tablets.
- Feeding a small meal or snack one hour before administration of tablets for motion sickness will minimize the occurrence of pre-trip vomiting following administration of tablets.
- Maropitant should be taken out of its foil packet immediately before administration, as exposure to moisture in the air can break down the tablets.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- The safe use of maropitant has not been evaluated in dogs used for breeding, pregnant or lactating bitches.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook
Wendy Blount, DVM - PracticalVetMed