

# Zonisamide

Zonegran® and Excegran® are other names for this medication.

## How Is This Medication Useful?

- Zonisamide 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?

- Zonisamide should be used in pregnant or nursing mothers only when benefits outweigh potential risks, as it can cause birth defects.

## What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Zonisamide can cause sleepiness or poor coordination, like most of the other antiseizure drugs.
- Zonisamide can cause gastrointestinal upset (vomiting or diarrhea) in some dogs.
- Zonisamide is a sulfa drug, and should not be given to dogs with allergies to this type drug.
- Zonisamide is a relatively new drug, and we are still learning about its use in dogs.

## 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, 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 daily.

## What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

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

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### References:

*Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook*