

Omeprazole

Prilosec®, *Prilosec OTC®*

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Omeprazole is a gastric acid (proton) pump inhibitor, which is used to treat ulcers or irritation in the stomach or intestines.

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

- Dogs who are allergic to omeprazole should not be given this drug.
- A lower dose of this drug may be needed if your dog has kidney or liver disease.
- Omeprazole's safety during pregnancy has not been established. In humans, the FDA categorizes this drug as category C for use during pregnancy (Animal studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus, but there are no adequate studies in humans; or there are no animal reproduction studies and no adequate studies in humans).

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Omeprazole is usually well tolerated by dogs and cats. However, it can sometimes cause GI upset (poor appetite, colic, nausea, vomiting, flatulence, and diarrhea).
- Use of omeprazole has been associated with urinary tract infections and protein in the urine.
- Omeprazole may cause increased liver enzymes on blood tests. Omeprazole will also cause increased levels of the hormone gastrin early in therapy.
- If your dog experiences any of these problems, please discontinue the drug, and notify us ASAP.

How Should It Be Given?

- In dogs, omeprazole use is believed to be safe for at least 4 weeks of therapy. Dosing for longer than 8 weeks is rarely recommended unless the benefits of therapy outweigh the potential risks.
- Omeprazole should be given to dogs and cats once daily.
- Omeprazole may decrease removal of the drugs diazepam, phenytoin or warfarin, from the bloodstream by the liver. Effects of these drugs could be enhanced by omeprazole, potentially causing toxicity. Additional monitoring and dosage adjustments may be required if omeprazole is given with any of these drugs.
- Because omeprazole can increase pH in the stomach, drugs that require low gastric pH for optimal absorption (e.g., ketoconazole, ampicillin or iron salts) may have their absorption reduced.
- Although omeprazole causes bone marrow depression (anemia) only rarely in humans, use with other drugs that cause bone marrow depression may lead to additive hematologic abnormalities.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Omeprazole takes effect within 1 hour of being given, and effects may last for 24-72 hours or more.
- Omeprazole oral paste should be stored below 86°F.
- Omeprazole tablets should be stored at room temperature in light-resistant, tight containers.
- Omeprazole pellets found in the capsules are fragile and should not be crushed.
- If needed to administer as a slurry, it has been suggested to mix the pellets carefully with fruit juices and not water, milk or saline.

References:

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook