

Client Drug Information Sheets



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KETOCONAZOLE - *Full Version*

CPN: 63000553

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Ketoconazole is an antifungal agent used to treat fungal infections (e.g. ringworm, bone, lung, central nervous system infections). It may also be prescribed for Cushing's disease or for other reasons. This medication is available as a tablet or in various topical preparations.

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WHAT IS THIS DRUG?

- Antifungal
- Given by mouth; some forms are used topically

REASONS FOR PRESCRIBING:

- Treatment of fungal infections, whether limited to the skin (e.g. ringworm, *Malassezia dermatitis*), or more serious infections affecting organ systems (bone, lungs, nervous system)
- Treatment of Cushing's disease or a palliative care option for pets with adrenal tumors
- May be used at the same time as the drug cyclosporine as **Ketoconazole** can reduce the amount of cyclosporine needed.

WHAT DOGS/CATS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION?

- Use in cats is controversial and some veterinarians believe **Ketoconazole** should not be used in cats

- Pets known to have had an allergic reaction to **Ketoconazole** or like products before
- Pets with liver disease or clotting disorders (low platelets or thrombocytopenia)
- Breeding, pregnant or nursing animals

DIRECTIONS:

Read and follow the prescription label carefully.

Give the exact amount prescribed and only as often as directed.

Give this medication for as long as your veterinarian directs. Do not skip doses or stop giving the medication without consulting your veterinarian. Missed doses reduce the effectiveness of therapy.

Baseline blood work is often recommended to assess your pet's general health before starting this medication. As long-term therapy is often required, periodic blood work may be recommended to monitor this medication's effects on the body. Dose adjustments may be made based upon these results and an assessment of how your dog or cat is responding clinically.

Discuss with your veterinarian if this medication is to be given with food. The daily dose of **Ketoconazole** is often divided and given with a fatty meal to reduce stomach upset and increase absorption. Your veterinarian may suggest tablets be given with a fatty food (e.g. butter or cheese).

This medication will take effect quickly, in about 1 to 2 hours, but its effects may not be visibly noticeable for a few days. Treatment is usually for several weeks and should be continued until the patient has been cultured negative. Discontinuing medication too early may cause the disease to recur.

Ideally, give the medication at the same time daily.

Call ahead for refills. Long-term therapy (a few weeks to months) is usually necessary for successful results.

If for some reason your pet needs antacids while on **Ketoconazole**, give them two hours after **Ketoconazole** is administered.

WHAT IF DOSE IS MISSED?

If a dose is missed, give it as soon as you can. If it is time already for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the normal schedule. Do not give two doses at the same time.

WHAT TO TELL/ASK YOUR VETERINARIAN BEFORE GIVING THIS MEDICATION?

Talk to your veterinarian about:

- When will your pet need to be rechecked
- What tests may need to be performed prior to and during treatment with this drug
- Risks and benefits of using this drug

Tell your veterinarian about:

- If your pet has experienced side effects on other drugs/products
- If your pet has experienced digestive upset now or ever
- If your pet has experienced liver or kidney disease now or ever
- If your pet has experienced any other medical problems or allergies now or ever
- All medicines and supplements that you are giving your pet or plan to give your pet, including those you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your pet's medicines can be given together.
- If your pet is pregnant or nursing or if you plan to breed your pet

STORAGE AND WARNINGS:

Store in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in a cool, dry place at room temperature away from heat and direct sunlight.

Refrigerate suspension if directed.

When administering the topical cream, the owner should wear gloves and wash hands after use.

Keep this and all medication out of reach of children and pets. Call your physician immediately if you accidentally take this product.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Nausea, decrease in appetite, vomiting, diarrhea (especially cats)
- High doses may cause liver disease (jaundice - yellowing of gums, skin or eyes), but are resolved when medication is discontinued. This has been found more often in cats and some dogs. Monitoring liver enzymes and blood counts during long-term therapy is advised.
- Some individuals will have a lightened hair coat while undergoing therapy. Reverses when medication is discontinued.
- May cause bleeding problems
- Some individuals may need prednisone administered along with **Ketoconazole**
- Testicular secretion of testosterone is reduced; may produce a feminizing effect or infertility in males.
- If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian
- This short-acting medication should stop working within 24 hours, although effects may last longer in pets with liver or kidney disease

CAN THIS DRUG BE GIVEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- Yes, but possible interactions may occur when giving **Ketoconazole** in conjunction with amiodarone, antacids, benzodiazepines (alprazolam, diazepam, midazolam), buspirone, busulfan, calcium channel blockers (amlodipine, diltiazem), ciprofloxacin, cisapride, colchicine, corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide, cyclosporine, digoxin, doxorubicin, ergot alkaloids, fentanyl, fluoxetine, H2-blockers (ranitidine, famotidine), isoniazid, ivermectin, macrolide antibiotics (erythromycin, clarithromycin), methadone, mitotane, midazolam, ondansetron, phenytoin, praziquantel, proton-pump inhibitors (omeprazole, pantoprazole), quinidine, rifampin, sildenafil, sucralfate, sulfonyleurea antidiabetic agent (glipizide, glyburide), theophylline, tramadol, trazadone, tricyclic

antidepressants (amitriptyline, clomipramine), vincristine, vinblastine and warfarin

- Drugs other than those listed may also interact with **Ketoconazole**
- Do not give new food or medications without first talking to your veterinarian
- If your pet experiences any unusual reactions when taking multiple medications, contact your veterinarian.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I KNOW OF OR SUSPECT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERDOSE?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet eats more than the prescribed amount.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Notify your veterinarian if your animal's condition does not improve or worsens despite this treatment.

As with all prescribed medicines, **Ketoconazole** should only be given to the dog/cat for which it was prescribed. It should be given only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

This is just a summary of information about **Ketoconazole**. If you have any questions or concerns about **Ketoconazole** or for the condition it was prescribed, contact your veterinarian.

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