



Medicine series

Practice details

Glipizide

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet **ONLY**. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your cat is called glipizide. It may have a trade name such as Minodiab but often will just be called glipizide.

What is glipizide?

Glipizide belongs to a class of drugs called sulfonylurea agents, which act on the beta cells in the pancreas to promote insulin secretion to help reduce blood glucose levels.

Why has my pet been prescribed Glipizide?

Vets use glipizide in cats to help manage diabetes mellitus, especially if administering insulin injections is not possible.

How should I store glipizide?

Glipizide has no special storage requirements. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children**.

How do I give glipizide tablets to my pet?

The tablets should be given by mouth. Try to disguise them in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, the tablets can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

How long will my pet need to take glipizide?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the medication for. This medication may need to be given for 4–8 weeks before an effect on your cat's blood glucose is seen and long-term use may be needed to control diabetes mellitus.

What should I do if I run out of tablets?

If you run out of medication you should contact your vet who has a good understanding of your cat's conditions and the reasons for prescribing glipizide.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your cat's next scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

Contact your vet immediately if your pet receives an overdose of glipizide. Gastrointestinal disturbance may occur even with standard doses.

Can my pet take glipizide if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your cat other medications. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

What are the possible side effects of glipizide for my pet?

Glipizide may cause gastrointestinal disturbances such as vomiting and sensitivity reactions such as yellow gums/ears (jaundice), rashes or a high temperature. It may also cause low blood glucose (hypoglycaemia).

What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking glipizide?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your cat's medicine, they should go to a local hospital or contact their doctor **immediately**. This leaflet along with any remaining medication and its containers (even if they are empty) should be taken with them.

Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your cat's health, contact your own vet. They will know your cat's medical history and further information on glipizide.

The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

While the editors and the BSAVA have made every effort in preparing this information leaflet, the contents and any statements are made in good faith purely for general guidance and cannot be regarded as substitute for professional advice. The publishers, contributors and the BSAVA do not take responsibility for the information provided on this leaflet and hence do not accept any liability for loss or expense incurred (by you or persons that you disseminate the materials to) as a result of relying on content in this leaflet. To this end, you are advised to consult your vet and seek their professional advice before taking any steps set out in this leaflet. If you are a vet, you must not rely on the contents in this leaflet without independently verifying the correctness and veracity of the contents. BSAVA is not responsible for any alterations made to this document from the version supplied.