

# Silver sulfadiazine

- 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 dog or cat is called silver sulfadiazine. It may have a trade name such as Flamazine, but often will just be called silver sulfadiazine.

## What is silver sulfadiazine?

Silver sulfadiazine belongs to a group of medicines called sulphonamides and has antimicrobial properties. It is used to treat skin infections and is particularly active against a group of bacteria called *Pseudomonas*.

## Why has my pet been prescribed silver sulfadiazine?

Your pet has been prescribed silver sulfadiazine to treat a localized bacterial or fungal skin infection.

## How should I store silver sulfadiazine?

Store at room temperature. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children**. Return any unused or leftover medication to your vet practice for safe disposal.

## How do I give silver sulfadiazine to my pet?

Wearing gloves, apply silver sulfadiazine to the affected area of the skin as prescribed after cleaning the area with an antiseptic.

## How long will my pet need to take silver sulfadiazine?

Your vet will advise you regarding the length of the course of treatment and it is important to finish the course even if the infection seems to have resolved.

## What should I do if I run out of silver sulfadiazine?

Contact your vet regarding whether the treatment needs to be continued.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

Continue with the next scheduled application. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

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

Contact your veterinary practice for advice.

## Can my pet take silver sulfadiazine if I am already giving them other drugs?

Treating a localized area of skin with topical therapy is generally safe but you should tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes any supplements or products purchased from a pet shop, pharmacy or online provider.

## What are the possible side effects of silver sulfadiazine for my pet?

If large areas of ulcerated skin are treated or your pet constantly licks the affected area, significant absorption of the drug may occur, which can rarely cause liver and kidney damage and reduced white blood cell count. If your pet is licking the area of skin where the cream is applied you should stop the treatment and inform your vet.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking silver sulfadiazine?

If your pet is unwell while receiving this medicine, discontinue treatment and 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 pet's tablets, contact a doctor or urgent health care provider for advice. Keep this leaflet and any remaining medicine plus its container (even if it is empty) to show them if needed.

## Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health please contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about silver sulfadiazine.

## 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.

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