

Ronidazole

- 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 ronidazole.

What is ronidazole?

Ronidazole is a type of antibiotic that belongs to the subgroup called nitroimidazoles.

Why has my pet been prescribed ronidazole?

It is used for treatment of a parasite called *Tritrichomonas foetus* which causes diarrhoea in cats.

How should I store ronidazole?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give ronidazole capsules to my pet?

Disposable gloves should be worn at all times when handling and administering this drug. DO NOT split or crush these capsules; only use whole capsules. The capsules can be given either directly into the mouth on the back of the tongue so that they will be swallowed or in some strongly flavoured food.

How long will my pet need to take ronidazole?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the medication for. Typically, treatment is continued for up to 2 weeks.

What should I do if I run out of capsules?

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 ronidazole.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, give the medication as soon as possible and then subsequent doses after 12–24 hours (depending on your cat's dosing regimen). 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 cat receives an overdose of ronidazole.

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

There are no known drug interactions but always 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 ronidazole for my pet?

There have been limited studies documenting ronidazole use in cats, however it appears to be relatively safe in cats at clinical doses. A small number of patients have developed neurological signs, such as twitching and seizures, that resolved after stopping ronidazole treatment.

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

If your cat is unwell while receiving this medication, you should contact your vet **immediately** 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 container (even if it is 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 ronidazole.

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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