

# Hydroxyzine

- 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 hydroxyzine. It may have a trade name such as Atarax or Ucerax, but often will just be called hydroxyzine.

## What is hydroxyzine?

Hydroxyzine belongs to a group of medicines that are called antihistamines. These drugs block histamine receptors in the skin.

## Why has my pet been prescribed hydroxyzine?

Vets use hydroxyzine most commonly to manage allergic disease associated with itching or hives in dogs and cats.

## How should I store hydroxyzine?

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 hydroxyzine tablets or liquid to my pet?

The medication should be given by mouth. It can be given either directly into the mouth on the back of the tongue so that it will be swallowed or in some strongly flavoured food before your pet's main meal.

## How long will my pet need to take hydroxyzine?

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer hydroxyzine for. It is important that the medication is administered as prescribed even if your pet is not itchy.

## What should I do if I run out of hydroxyzine?

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

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

If you miss a dose, you can either give the dose straight away and re-establish the correct dosing intervals or wait until the next dose is due. **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 for advice** if your pet receives an overdose of hydroxyzine. Do not give any more medication.

## Can my pet take hydroxyzine if I am already giving them other medications?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet other medications. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. Antihistamines are generally safe to use alongside other drugs but your vet will give you advice.

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

Antihistamines are generally well tolerated but can cause sedation or sometimes hyperexcitability. They should be avoided in pregnant animals and animals with pre-existing seizures, glaucoma or urinary retention.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should stop the medication and contact your vet as soon as possible.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this medication?

If a person accidentally takes the medication, you should go to a local hospital or contact a local doctor **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining capsules plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

## 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, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and further information on hydroxyzine.

### 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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