



Medicine series

Practice details

# Remdesivir

- 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 remdesivir. It may have a trade name such as Veklary, but often will just be called remdesivir.

## What is remdesivir?

Remdesivir is a prodrug of GS-441524, a nucleoside analogue, and is a broad-spectrum antiviral drug.

## Why has my pet been prescribed remdesivir?

Remdesivir is prescribed for the treatment of feline infectious peritonitis (FIP).

## How should I store remdesivir?

It should be stored in the fridge and then brought to room temperature prior to injection. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give remdesivir injection to my pet?

Remdesivir can be given by intravenous or subcutaneous (under the skin) injection. You will be asked to inject it subcutaneously at home. Your vet or vet nurse will show you how to do this.

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

Your vet will tell you how long you need to administer the medication for. Typically, treatment is continued for up to 12 weeks (84 days). Injections of remdesivir may be replaced by oral medication with tablets of GS-441524 at some point within the first two weeks of therapy.

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

Try to ensure that you have enough medication in advance of it running out. However, if you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

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

If you miss a dose, give the next dose as soon as possible and then subsequent doses after 24 hours. 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 remdesivir.

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

There are no known interactions with other drugs 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 remdesivir for my pet?

Transient stinging and injection site reactions are possible. Cats may also appear depressed or show signs of nausea (restlessness, lip licking, increased salivation) for a few hours after intravenous administration of remdesivir. In cats with fluid around their lungs or in their abdomen, the volume of fluid can increase for 1–2 days, especially after intravenous administration. Neurological signs may appear or worsen during the first few days of treatment. There may be a transient increase in serum proteins (globulins), but this should resolve in the first 6 weeks of treatment.

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

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

## What should I do if a person accidentally injects themselves with 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 remdesivir.

## 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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