

Atenolol

(a-ten-oh-lol)

Category: Beta-Adrenergic Blocker

Other Names for this Medication: Tenormin®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 25 mg, 50 mg, & 100 mg tablets.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ May be given with or without food. If your pet vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Used in dogs, cats, or ferrets to treat high blood pressure, or certain types of heart problems (eg, fast heart rate).
- ▶ May cause animal to act “tired” or lack energy. If this continues or is a problem, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ If your animal has been on this medication for a while, do not stop it suddenly without your veterinarian’s guidance.

How is this medication useful?

Atenolol is used to treat high blood pressure and other types of heart disease in cats, dogs, and ferrets.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals in the USA. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with atenolol, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That have had an allergic or severe reaction to it or other drugs in the same class, (eg, propranolol, metoprolol).
- ▶ That have advanced heart failure.
- ▶ With slow heart rates.
- ▶ That have a heart condition called heart block.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ With congestive heart failure or certain heart conditions.
- ▶ That have asthma.
- ▶ With advanced kidney disease.
- ▶ With diabetes mellitus; atenolol can make it difficult to measure accurate blood sugar levels.
- ▶ That have had gastrointestinal (stomach or intestinal) ulcers in the past.

If your animal matches any of these, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the drug versus the benefits it may have.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Common, but not serious side effects include:

- ▶ It is not unusual at the beginning of treatment for animals to have a lack of energy or act tired.
- ▶ Vomiting and diarrhea are possible.

You don’t have to be overly concerned if you see any of these unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Very slow heartbeat, shortness of breath, or collapsing (fainting). These do not occur commonly and usually means the dose is too high.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs.

If my pet gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of atenolol can be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose, immediately contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ May be given on an empty stomach or with food. Give with food if vomiting or lack of appetite becomes a problem. If vomiting or lack

of appetite continue, contact your veterinarian.

- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original childproof, light-resistant prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the noted storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.