

Cisapride

(sis-a-pride)

Category: Promotility Agent

Other Names for this Medication: Propulsid®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** None. Cisapride must be made (compounded) as commercial dosage forms are no longer available due to adverse effects in humans.

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

- ▶ Must be obtained from a compounding pharmacy.
- ▶ Adverse effects (eg, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal discomfort) appear to be minimal in veterinary patients.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Many possible drug interactions; do not give any new drugs without first checking with your veterinarian.

How is this medication useful?

Cisapride stimulates the movement of food through the stomach and intestines. In small animals, it can be useful for treating esophageal reflux, esophagitis (inflamed esophagus), and situations when food is not emptied from the stomach normally. This drug has been found to be particularly useful in the treatment of constipation and megacolon in cats.

Cisapride was once approved by the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) for human use, but it was withdrawn from the market as, rarely, it caused serious heart rhythm problems. Cisapride does not appear to have this effect in small animals (eg, dogs, cats, rodents, rabbits). 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 cisapride, 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 may have 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 are allergic to it.
- ▶ In which greater gastrointestinal motility could be harmful (eg, perforation of stomach or intestines, blocked stomach or intestines, GI bleeding).

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

- ▶ Have severe liver disease; the dose may need to be reduced.
- ▶ Have heart rhythm abnormalities.
- ▶ Are pregnant or nursing; high doses in rodents have caused birth defects.

If your pet has any of these conditions or signs, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects, which are usually not serious, include:

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal discomfort (cramping).

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

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

- ▶ Incoordination (weakness, stumbling, clumsiness)
- ▶ Excessive salivation (drooling)
- ▶ Muscle twitching.
- ▶ Abnormal behavior: agitation, anxiety, nervousness, unable to relax
- ▶ High body temperature.
- ▶ Seizures.

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see any of these signs, as it may mean that the dose is too high or an overdose has occurred.

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

Overdoses of cisapride can cause serious effects (see side effects above). If you witness or suspect an overdose, 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 has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach. 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.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of cisapride must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes. Shake liquid forms well each time before measuring.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with 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, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal. Follow the 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. Because this drug has caused serious effects in people, humans **must not** take it.

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 left over 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.