

Clindamycin

(klin-da-mye-sin)

Category: Lincosamide Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Antirobe®, Cleocin®, Clinsol®, Clintabs®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 25 mg, 75 mg, 150 mg, & 300 mg capsules; 25 mg, 75 mg, & 150 mg tablets; 25 mg/mL oral solution. **Human:** 75 mg, 150 mg, & 300 mg capsules; 75 mg/5 mL (15 mg/mL) oral solution.

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

- ▶ Used for skin, bone, and dental infections; also useful for toxoplasmosis and neosporosis infections.
- ▶ Do not give to horses, rabbits, mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, or deer, as it may cause fatal diarrhea.
- ▶ May give with or without food, but do not “dry pill” as it may cause throat burns. Give a small amount of food or water (about a teaspoonful) while medicating. 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.
- ▶ Bitter taste; may require disguising in food to get animal to take it.

How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs and cats for treating infections of the skin (abscesses, wounds), bone infections (dogs only) and dental infections (dogs only). The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. Clindamycin is used after dental procedures to prevent infection. It is also used in animals to treat serious infections such as toxoplasmosis, hepatozoonosis, and babesiosis. 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 this medication, 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. Animals nursing from mothers receiving this drug may get diarrhea.
- ▶ 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 or drugs like it (eg, lincomycin, azithromycin).
- ▶ Horses, rabbits, mice, hamsters, rats, chinchillas, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and deer.

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

- ▶ That have liver or kidney damage.
- ▶ That are very young.
- ▶ That are taking the drug cyclosporine, as clindamycin can lower blood levels of cyclosporine.

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 the drug?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of an appetite.
- ▶ Drooling and lip smacking (especially in cats) after giving by mouth.

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:

- ▶ Bloody diarrhea.
- ▶ Trouble swallowing; complete loss of appetite.

If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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

Overdoses of clindamycin are not usually serious. 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.

- ▶ Clindamycin is bitter tasting. If your veterinarian instructs you to split the tablets, you may need to hide the split tablets in an empty capsule to manage the bitter taste. Ask your veterinarian or pharmacist how to do this.
- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach, but you should always follow "pilling" with a small amount of food or about a teaspoonful of water to make sure the capsules and tablets do not get stuck in the throat on the way to the 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.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes. Cats do not like the taste of the liquid and will drool and lip smack excessively after receiving the liquid.
- ▶ 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 dose.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original vial, prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If 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.

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.