

Desmopressin

(des-moe-press-in)

Category: Hormonal Agent

Other Names for this Medication: Stimate®, DDAVP

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 0.1 mg/mL (0.01%) & 1.5 mg/mL (intranasal). Compounded dosage forms may be available.

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

- ▶ In dogs and cats, human nasal spray is usually prescribed; however, the drug is given by putting drops into the eye instead of the nose.
- ▶ Usually tolerated well as an eye drop though sometimes eye irritation occurs.
- ▶ Store in refrigerator; discard open bottles after 30 days.

How is this medication useful?

Desmopressin is a synthetic form of the naturally occurring hormone vasopressin, which controls fluid elimination in the body. Desmopressin is used to control the excessive urination caused by a disease called diabetes insipidus (not diabetes mellitus or sugar diabetes). It is also sometimes used as an injection to treat a disease called Von Willebrand disease where blood does not clot normally.

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. 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 desmopressin, 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 are allergic to it.
- ▶ That have heart disease or other conditions where they may be prone to blood clots.

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

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Eye irritation when given as an eye drop. If this is severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

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

- ▶ Itching; hives; swelling of the face, tongue or throat; trouble breathing may indicate an allergic reaction to desmopressin (rare).

If your animal develops any of these signs, immediately take it to the nearest veterinarian.

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

Overdoses of desmopressin given in the eye sac are not likely to cause serious problems, but 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.

- ▶ Desmopressin should be administered right into the eyelid sac, just like an eye drop. Do not touch the tip of the dropper to the eyelid to avoid contamination.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to accept the eye drop, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. 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?

- ▶ Store the nasal solution in the refrigerator, but do not freeze. Unopened bottles are stable at room temperature for up to 3 weeks. Open vials should be discarded after 30 days.
- ▶ 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 leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ If your animal starts urinating a lot again, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ 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.