

Diazoxide

(di-az-oh-side)

Category: Agent to Increase Blood Sugar Levels

Other Names for this Medication: Proglycem®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 50 mg/mL oral suspension. 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

- ▶ Used to raise blood sugar.
- ▶ Give with food to reduce the gastrointestinal (GI) side effects of the drug.
- ▶ Can be bitter tasting; taste masking agents are often used to get animals to take the drug. Shake suspensions well.
- ▶ Watch for signs of blood sugar that's too high or too low.

How is this medication useful?

In ferrets, dogs, and cats, diazoxide is used to raise blood sugar levels when too much insulin is released by certain tumors (eg, insulinomas).

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 diazoxide, 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 or other thiazide drugs (eg, hydrochlorothiazide).
- ▶ That have low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) from causes other than tumors.

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

- ▶ That have heart failure or kidney disease.

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 that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive drooling (dogs). Giving the drug with food can help reduce these signs.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs 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:

- ▶ Watch for weakness, fever, bleeding (including bloody diarrhea), and bruising.
- ▶ Fast heart rate.
- ▶ Seizures, weakness, collapse, muscle twitching, depression, or unsteadiness. These signs may indicate that your animal's blood sugar is too low.
- ▶ Drinking more than normal, needing to urinate more, no appetite, lack of energy, weakness, depression, or severe vomiting. These signs may indicate the blood sugar is too high.

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

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

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 should be given with food to reduce gastrointestinal (GI) side effects (eg, vomiting, lack of appetite, diarrhea).
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.

- ▶ Shake the oral suspension well before measuring each dose.
- ▶ 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. Diazoxide has a bitter taste and taste-masking agents (preferably sugar-free) may be useful in increasing acceptance of this medication.
- ▶ 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 this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light. Do not allow solutions/suspensions (liquids) to freeze. Do not use darkened solutions/suspensions, as they may not work anymore.
- ▶ 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?

- ▶ Your veterinarian will need to do tests and evaluate your animal to properly adjust the dose and watch for bone marrow side effects.
- ▶ 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.