

Trimeprazine with Prednisolone

(trye-mep-ra-zeen with pred-niss-oh-lone)

Category: Antihistamine combined with Glucocorticoid (steroid)

Other Names for this Medication: Temaril-P®, Vanectyl-P® (Canada)

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Trimeprazine tartrate 5 mg and Prednisolone 2 mg tablets.

Human: None.

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

- ▶ A combination of an antihistamine and a cortisone-like steroid used to reduce itching associated with allergies; it is sometimes used to treat cough.
- ▶ This drug combination can cause sleepiness, muscle tremors, increased thirst, appetite, and need to urinate.
- ▶ Due to the steroid in the drug combination, long-term use can cause potbelly, increased susceptibility to infection, elevated blood pressure, poor wound healing, and changes in hair coat.

How is this medication useful?

Trimeprazine with prednisolone is used to treat itching associated with allergies in dogs and cats; it may also be useful as a cough suppressant.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs to treat itching or cough. The FDA does allow veterinarians to prescribe and use 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 the trimeprazine and prednisolone combination product, 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 lack of appetite, vomiting, 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 with:

- ▶ Allergies to either drug or to other phenothiazine drugs (eg, acepromazine, chlorpromazine).
- ▶ Appointments for allergy testing. Antihistamines and steroids interfere with the results of allergy testing. Talk with your veterinarian about when to stop giving this medication.
- ▶ Untreated Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism).
- ▶ Stomach or intestinal ulcers or are receiving other drugs that can cause stomach ulcers, including aspirin or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (eg, carprofen, deracoxib, meloxicam).

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

- ▶ Have a seizure disorder (eg, epilepsy). Trimeprazine may increase the risk for seizures.
- ▶ Are pregnant. Steroids may increase the chance for early delivery.
- ▶ Have diabetes mellitus, as prednisolone may cause changes in insulin requirements.
- ▶ Have heart disease.
- ▶ Have a systemic infection.
- ▶ Are young and growing. These drugs can affect (stunt) growth when used for a long time.

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:

- ▶ The most common side effect, which is often desirable, is sleepiness. Most animals will become tolerant to this effect with time and will not get as sleepy when given the medication.
- ▶ Greater appetite, thirst, and need to urinate.
- ▶ Muscle tremors or rigidity, restlessness.
- ▶ Mild behavioral changes (eg, restlessness, excessive panting)

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:

- ▶ Infection. Glucocorticoid drugs can suppress your animal's immune system and may increase the risk for infection. If your pet suddenly develops a poor appetite, low energy level, vomiting, or diarrhea, contact your veterinarian immediately; these signs may indicate an infection.
- ▶ After the drug is used for several weeks or more, weight gain, potbelly, skin or coat changes, hair loss, or weakness may occur. If you see any of these, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Aggression (threatening behavior/actions). Occasionally, some animals may become aggressive while on prednisolone. Contact your veterinarian if this occurs.

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

Small overdoses of trimeprazine with prednisolone are usually not serious; however, large overdoses can be. If you witness or suspect an overdose or your animal is showing signs such as excessive drowsiness, trouble walking, muscle tremors or rigidity, or seizures, 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: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

- ▶ This 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 this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medication, 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. Do not stop this medication suddenly without talking to your veterinarian, as serious side effects could occur and there may be important reasons to continue its use.

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

If you are giving this drug twice a day, give the next dose when it is usually time to do so. If you are giving this drug once daily, give it when you remember and then give it at the regular time the next day. Do not double-up doses or give an extra dose.

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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Because this drug combination causes increased thirst and urination, your pet will need to have access to plenty of water at all times and will need to urinate more frequently.

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