

Ballston Spa Veterinary Clinic
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METRONIDAZOLE

Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?

Metronidazole is a synthetic antibacterial and antiprotozoal agent used in treating giardiasis, trichomoniasis, amoebiasis, balantidiasis and trypanosomiasis.

How do I give this medication?

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian.
READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.
- If using the liquid form of this medication, shake well before measuring the dose and measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Give this medication for as long as prescribed by your veterinarian, even if it appears the pet is feeling better. This will help to ensure the infection is all cleared up.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed.
- **DO NOT** give the medicine more often than directed.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.
- Metronidazole base tablets are extremely bitter, do not crush these tablets.



What if I miss giving a dose?

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store capsules and tablets in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.

What are the potential side effects?

- This medication may cause drowsiness, weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and neurological disorders (e.g. muscular incoordination, involuntary rapid movement of the eyeball, seizures, head tilt, slow heart rate, rigidity and stiffness).
- If your pet develops any neurological symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

Are there any possible drug interactions?

- Make sure to **tell your veterinarian** what other medication you are giving your pet.

- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with metronidazole: warfarin, phenobarbital, phenytoin, cimetidine, and alcohol.
- **Contact your veterinarian** if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

*This client information sheet is based on material written by Rita Ozolins, B.Sc., Phm.
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