Pharmacy Spotlight: Glipizide

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

- **Medication type:**
  Sulfonylurea antidiabetic
- **Active ingredient:**
  Glipizide
- **Dosage form:**
  Tablets
- **Manufacturer:**
  –Apotex Corp
- **Brand Name:**
  Glucotrol®
- **Major use:**
  Effective in the treatment of Type II feline diabetes (diabetes mellitus) in non-insulin dependent animals.
- **How it works:**
  Glipizide causes the pancreas to release insulin, which helps to lower the blood sugar level.

Glipizide SUCCESS STORY:

Cat's Name: Simba
Breed: Domestic Shorthair
Age: 10 years

Her story: Simba had aged well. With a high level of energy, an abundance of kitten-like habits, and regular checkups that confirmed her good health status, her owners were confident that their feline pal was disease-free. Things began to change, however, at the 10-year mark. The cat's water dish was always empty; she was less active, and her weigh-in at the animal clinic revealed a substantial gain in pounds. When the owners discussed these observations with their veterinarian, he

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mentioned the possibility of the onset of
diabetes mellitus. Laboratory tests revealed high blood glucose levels, increased liver enzymes, elevated cholesterol, and glucose in the urine. There was no mistake about it. Simba was suffering with Type II diabetes. The veterinarian went on to explain that Glipizide is a medication that works effectively with some cats. It causes the pancreas to release insulin more readily thereby bypassing the need for giving insulin injections at home.

Outcome: Laboratory tests were done for several weeks to monitor Simba's blood sugar levels and to determine the appropriate dosage. The cat was also placed on a low-carbohydrate, high-quality food. As it turned out, Glipizide, along with the recommended dietary changes, controlled her diabetic condition. Feeling better again, Simba became more active, and she soon shed her excess weight.

For full details on this medication, download the free patient information sheet.

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