

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021 Mon-Fri from 9am-6pm CST and Sat from 9am-1pm CST. If you have an emergency situation, please contact your local veterinarian immediately.

Amitriptyline

(Elavil)

Common Drug Name

Amitriptyline

Common Brand Names

Elavil

Generic products are available.

Storage

Refrigerate oral suspension. Store other forms at room temperature. Protect injectable form from light and freezing.

Uses

Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant, and should be used in combination with behavior modification techniques.

Dogs: Used to treat anxiety disorders.

Cats: Used to treat anxiety disorders, excessive grooming, and urine spraying.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Give the oral form with food to decrease the risk of side effects such as vomiting.

Amitriptyline in tablet form is very bitter, and it may be difficult to give in pill form. Compounding pharmacies can make an oral liquid form or transdermal (topical) gel, which may be easier to administer.

If using the transdermal gel, apply to the skin as directed by your veterinarian.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

Changes in dosage or discontinuation of therapy should be done gradually.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

Dogs: May see an increase in excitability or sedation; lack of appetite, vomiting, constipation, or diarrhea; increased appetite and weight gain; increased water consumption, caused by dry mouth; abnormal heart rhythms, which may cause weakness or collapse; bone marrow suppression with anemia, causing weakness and pale gums; or low platelets, causing an increased tendency to bruise or bleed.

Cats: May see drooling, sedation, urinary retention, loss of appetite, vomiting, constipation; increased appetite and weight gain; increased water consumption, caused by dry mouth; unkempt hair coat; incoordination, disorientation; abnormal heart rhythms, which may cause weakness or collapse; or low platelets, causing an increased tendency to bruise or bleed.

Cats being treated with the gel form may develop a skin condition where it is applied and possibly scratch the area. If this occurs, contact your veterinarian.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these side effects.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Do not use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to tricyclic antidepressants.

Use with extreme caution in animals with seizure disorders/epilepsy, diabetes mellitus, liver disease, or heart disease.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations (including an EKG) and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with amitriptyline.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Human Precautions

Children are very sensitive to the seizure-inducing and heart effects of the medication. Keep the medication out of their reach.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using amitriptyline with vitamins, supplements, ephedrine, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) such as selegiline (deprenyl, Anipryl) or amitraz (an ingredient in some tick collars, and in Mitaban, a treatment for mange), anticholinergic medications (atropine), central nervous system (CNS) depressants, or sympathomimetic agents like phenylpropanolamine (Proin, Cystolamine), methimazole, or other antithyroid drugs, or cimetidine, since interactions may occur.

May alter blood glucose levels.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Can be very toxic, in overdoses, to humans and pets. Large overdoses can cause death. May see sedation; abnormal heart rhythms and low blood pressure, which may cause weakness or collapse; seizures; or coma.

If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.