

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.

Metronidazole - Equine

(Flagyl)

Common Drug Name

Metronidazole

Common Brand Names

Flagyl (human form)

Generic products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Metronidazole is an antibiotic and antiprotozoal medication. In horses it is most commonly used to treat infections with anaerobic bacteria, including *Clostridium*.

Dose and Administration

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

Duration of treatment depends on reason for and response to treatment.

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.

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

Possible Side Effects

Side effects may include depression, loss of appetite, diarrhea, weakness, anemia, blood in the urine, head tilt, disorientation, and stumbling. It may also cause liver disease, which can result in yellowing of the gums, skin, and eyes. Damage to nerves is also possible, and may result in the animal stumbling or knuckling over. If you notice any of these side effects, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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

Precautions

Not for use in horses hypersensitive (allergic) to metronidazole or related drugs.

Metronidazole can cause birth defects in some species. Not for use in debilitated, pregnant, or lactating mares unless benefits outweigh the risks.

Use with extreme caution in debilitated horses or those with liver, kidney, or nervous system diseases.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with metronidazole.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your horse is taking while receiving metronidazole.

Consult your veterinarian before using metronidazole with phenobarbital, phenytoin, cimetidine, or anticoagulants such as warfarin, since interactions may occur.

Withdrawal Times

Consult your veterinarian and event officials before using metronidazole or any other medication in a performance horse. Not for use in horses intended for food.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Signs of toxicity can occur with acute overdoses or long-term use. Signs may include lack of appetite, stumbling, nystagmus (eyes move rapidly back and forth), knuckling over at the joints, disorientation, stiffness, rigidity, and seizures. If you know or suspect your horse has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your horse, stop giving the medication and consult with your veterinarian immediately. Signs may not resolve until the horse is off of the medication for several days.

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