

# DOCTORS FOSTER<sup>and</sup> SMITH<sup>®</sup> PHARMACY

## Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander, WI 54501

For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021

## Hydroxyzine

(Atarax, Vistaril)

### Common Drug Name

Hydroxyzine

Generic products are available.

### Common Brand Names

Atarax (Hydroxyzine HCl)

Vistaril (Hydroxyzine pamoate)

### Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Avoid freezing liquid products.

### Uses

Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets: Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used for the treatment of allergies, flea bite dermatitis, and atopy, primarily to stop itching. (Atopy is an allergy to something that is inhaled, such as pollen or house dust; also called 'inhalant allergy').

Birds: Hydroxyzine is used for the treatment of allergies, feather picking, and self-mutilation.

### Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian.

Duration of treatment depends on the 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.

If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

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

### Possible Side Effects

Dogs: May see sedation. Less commonly seen are excitement, fine tremors, whole body tremors, or seizures.

Cats: May see increased thirst, sedation, or other behavioral changes.

Consult your veterinarian if you notice any of the above 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

Not for use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to hydroxyzine or similar medications.

Use with caution in animals with hypothyroidism, heart disease, glaucoma, enlarged prostate, severe cardiac failure, or obstruction of the urinary bladder (problems urinating), or obstruction of the pylorus (junction between the stomach and intestine).

Not for use in pregnant and lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Do not use in working animals (military dogs, police dogs, seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, etc.) as it may cause too much sedation.

Discontinue use at least 7 days prior to skin allergy testing.

### Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using hydroxyzine with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, other central nervous system (CNS) depressant drugs such as barbiturates, antidepressants, anesthetics, or tranquilizers; anticholinergic drugs, heparin, warfarin, or epinephrine, since interactions may occur.

No known food interactions.

### Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see excessive sedation or low blood pressure (weakness). 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.*