

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.

Oxytocin

(Pitocin, Syntocinon)

Common Drug Name

Oxytocin

Common Brand Names

Pitocin or Syntocinon (human forms)

Generic products are available.

Storage

Store in refrigerator or at controlled room temperature, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Uses

Oxytocin is a hormone approved for use in multiple animal species to increase uterine contractions and/or milk letdown. It is also used for the treatment of egg binding in birds and reptiles.

Dose and Administration

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

Oxytocin is given intravenously (IV), subcutaneously (SQ, subQ), or intramuscularly (IM), as directed by your veterinarian.

Use only under the direct supervision of your veterinarian. Contact your veterinarian before treating with oxytocin; the lives of the mother and the offspring depend on it.

Oxytocin is not available in an oral form since it is destroyed in the stomach and intestines.

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

Possible Side Effects

May cause uterine cramping and discomfort. If used when the fetuses are malpositioned or too large for a natural birth, it may cause uterine rupture, fetal injury, or fetal death. If you observe any of these reactions, contact your veterinarian immediately.

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 who are hypersensitive (allergic) to it.

Not for use in animals with dystocia (difficulty giving birth) due to malposition of the fetus, small pelvis in the mother, large fetal size, or when a cesarean section is otherwise warranted.

Do not use until the cervix is naturally dilated.

If used when a pyometra (infection in the uterus) is present, it could cause the uterus to rupture.

Guinea Pigs: If no young are produced within 15 minutes of the injection of 1 unit, cesarean section is indicated.

Reptiles: Use care in giving multiple injections. Most effective in chelonians (turtles); not as effective in lizards.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to treatment with oxytocin.

Drug, Food and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using oxytocin with any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, since interactions may occur.

If used with adrenergic agents (e.g., ephedrine), it may cause postpartum high blood pressure.

If used with some general anesthetics, it may cause low blood pressure and cardiovascular changes in the mother.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

May see continual contractions leading to a difficult labor, uterine rupture, fetal injury, or death of the fetus(es) or mother.

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.