

Glyburide

(glye-byoor-ide)

Category: Oral Antidiabetic Agent

Other Names for this Medication: DiaBeta®, Micronase®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, & 5 mg tablets; 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, & 6 mg micronized tablets.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your pet. If you have other questions or need more information, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Give with meals; usually twice per day.
- ▶ Cats may vomit after starting this drug, but this usually gets better after a few days.
- ▶ May take 1-2 months to see if the drug is working.
- ▶ Rarely, glyburide can cause liver problems or blood sugar to be too low (hypoglycemia). Watch for seizures (convulsions), collapsing/fainting, rear leg weakness or paralysis, muscle twitching, unsteadiness, lack of energy or depression.
- ▶ Because this drug has not been used much in cats, additional side effects may occur. Report any unusual effects to your veterinarian.

How is this medication useful?

Glyburide is used in cats to treat non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans, but it is not officially approved for use in animals. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use human products containing this drug in animals in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given to my pet?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with this medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your pet, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or did not work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your pet has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ With low blood sugar (hypoglycemia).
- ▶ With a severe form of diabetes known as, diabetic ketoacidosis (a build-up of blood acids [ketones] in the body); this condition requires insulin treatment.
- ▶ That have insulin-resistant diabetes. Glyburide does not work in these cats.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That are pregnant or nursing.
- ▶ That are weak, frail, or debilitated.
- ▶ With renal (kidney) or hepatic (liver) problems.
- ▶ With thyroid or adrenal gland problems.

If your pet has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Lack of appetite, and vomiting. Cats may develop these side effects when starting this drug. Vomiting usually occurs shortly after dosing and usually gets better after 2-5 days.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Seizures (convulsions), collapsing/passing out, rear leg weakness or paralysis, wobbling, head tilting, shivering, excessive sleepiness, glassy eyes, confusion, muscle twitching, unsteadiness, or depression. These can all be signs associated with hypoglycemia (blood sugar that's too low) and can be very serious. If you see any of these, immediately rub 1 mL (about ¼ teaspoon) of Karo® syrup on the gums and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Yellowing of the whites of the eyes, skin or gums (jaundice) and increases in liver enzymes. Approximately 8% of treated cats can develop these signs.
- ▶ Lack of an appetite, severe vomiting, or severe lack of energy.
- ▶ Bleeding, bruising, fever (indicating an infection), tires easily.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work properly, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Glyburide should be given with meals.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your pet to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reduce the stress of medication time for both you and your pet.
- ▶ Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving my animal a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close enough to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at room temperature and protected from light.
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has prepared (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other pets?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ While taking glyburide, your veterinarian will need to do periodic blood tests on your animal to monitor how well it is working. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- ▶ If your cat's blood sugar values do not improve after 1-2 months on glyburide, your veterinarian will likely recommend that you switch your cat to insulin injections (shots).
- ▶ There are other drugs used to treat diabetes that sound like glyburide. Do not confuse glyBURIDE with gliMEPIRIDE or gliPEZIDE.
- ▶ Glyburide is not a cure for diabetes, but can help to keep blood sugar under control. Many cats will stop responding to glipizide after several months and must then be treated with insulin injections (shots).
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.