

Griseofulvin

(gri-see-oh-ful-vin)

Category: Antifungal

Other Names for this Medication: Gris-Peg®, Grifulvin®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** Microsize particles: 250 mg & 500 mg oral tablets; 125mg/5 mL (25 mg/mL) oral liquid. Ultramicrosize particles: 125 mg & 250 mg oral tablets. Compounded dosage forms may be available.

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 animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Should be given with fatty foods/oils (eg, cheese, cream, butter, corn oil).
- ▶ Lack of appetite (eating less or not at all), vomiting, & diarrhea are the most common side effects.
- ▶ Kittens are more sensitive to the drug and harmful effects on bone marrow are possible.
- ▶ **Pregnant women should handle this drug with care; griseofulvin has caused birth defects in animals and may do so in humans.**

How is this medication useful?

Griseofulvin is used to treat skin, hair, and nail/claw fungal conditions such as ringworm (*Microsporum* spp or *Trichophyton* spp) in dogs, cats, small mammals (eg, hamsters, rabbits), and horses. It is not useful for treating yeasts such as *Malassezia* spp. Griseofulvin has also been tried in dogs to treat certain rare inflammatory skin disorders.

There were FDA-approved products for veterinary species in the past, but these are no longer marketed in the US. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans. 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?

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 drug, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal 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 didn't 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 animal 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:

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it.
- ▶ Animals that have severe liver disease.
- ▶ Cats with viral infections such as FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) or FeLV (feline leukemia virus).
- ▶ Pregnant animals; especially cats. Griseofulvin has caused birth defects in kittens of queens that received it during pregnancy.
- ▶ Male breeding animals as griseofulvin can affect sperm production.

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

- ▶ Kittens as they are more susceptible to serious adverse effects on their bone marrow.

If your animal 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:

- ▶ Loss of appetite (eating less or not at all), vomiting, diarrhea.
- ▶ Sunlight sensitivity. If your animal is fair colored, has thin hair, or shaved areas, try to keep it out of direct sunlight for prolonged periods.
- ▶ Itchiness.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any 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:

- ▶ Pale gums, bleeding.
- ▶ Low energy level, weakness, depression, clumsiness, stumbling.
- ▶ Fever. Yellowing of the whites of the eyes, skin, or gums.
- ▶ Poor appetite, severe vomiting, or severe lack of energy.
- ▶ Serious skin sores and rashes can rarely happen.

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 that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ The drug should be given with food that is high in fat. Your veterinarian may tell you to add fat or oil (eg, corn oil) to food when you give the drug.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ Griseofulvin can have a bad taste. If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. 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 a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close 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 made (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?

Pregnant women and people who are allergic to this drug should be very careful not to accidentally take it. **Because this drug has a higher risk for causing birth defects, pregnant women should wear disposable gloves when giving doses or handling the drug and avoid inhaling any dust from split or crushed tablets.** Skin or eyes exposed to powder or liquids containing the drug should immediately be washed or rinsed off thoroughly and your physician contacted.

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?

- ▶ Griseofulvin comes in two different forms: microsize and ultramicrosize. The dosages for each form are different so be sure that your animal is receiving the form that your veterinarian wants you to give your animal.
- ▶ 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.