

Iodide, Potassium Iodide, Sodium

(eye-oh-dide)

Category: Antifungal

Other Names for this Medication: SSKI®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** This medication is usually made (compounded) into a liquid for oral use.

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

- ▶ Nausea and vomiting (in dogs, cats) as well as refusal to take the medicine occur commonly due to the unpleasant taste, especially if given on an empty stomach. Give with cream or high fat food. Compounded capsules may be easier to administer in some animals.
- ▶ Excessive tearing from eyes (lacrimation/tearing); may need to skip a dose if this is a problem.
- ▶ Long-term use or high dosages can cause iodide toxicity (iodism); see adverse effects below.
- ▶ If liquid turns brownish-yellow do not use.

How is this medication useful?

Oral iodides (sodium or potassium) may be used to treat sporotrichosis (a type of fungal infection) in dogs and cats. It is rarely used in cats as they have more side effects and reactions to the medicine. In horses, iodides may be useful to treat sporotrichosis or conidiobolomycosis (another type of fungal infection). Iodides are used intravenously (IV) in cattle, sheep, and goats to treat “Woody Tongue” (actinobacillosis, a type of bacterial infection).

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 patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ That are pregnant or nursing. Foals, born from mares given iodides, have developed enlarged thyroid glands.
- ▶ With kidney failure or that are severely dehydrated.
- ▶ With elevated thyroid hormone levels.

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:

- ▶ Nausea and vomiting (in dogs, cats) as well as refusal to take the medicine due to the unpleasant taste, especially if given on an empty stomach. Give with cream or high fat food. Cats may accept sodium bromide better than potassium bromide.
- ▶ Excessive tearing from the eyes; may need to skip a dose if this is a problem.

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:

- ▶ Iodism (iodide toxicity; cats are particularly at risk for this). Severe vomiting, no appetite, depression, twitching, change in hair-coat, dandruff, diarrhea, runny nose, low body temperature, or trouble breathing (heart failure).

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?

Overdoses, especially if the dose is too high for a while, can be serious. 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 orally (by mouth) with a high fat food (eg, cream, ice cream) to small animals.
- ▶ 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 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 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?

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?

- ▶ Iodides can degrade to a brownish-yellow color. Do not use the medicine if this occurs.
- ▶ 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.