

Lincomycin

(lin-koe-mye-sin)

Category: Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Lincocin®, Lincomix®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 50 mg/mL oral suspension; 25 mg/mL, 50 mg/mL, 100 mg/mL, & 300 mg/mL injectable solution; 40 g powdered packets. Compounded capsules may be available. **Human:** 300 mg/mL injectable solution.

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

- ▶ Used for infections of skin, wounds, and bone.
- ▶ Do not give to horses, rabbits, mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, or deer as it may cause fatal diarrhea.
- ▶ May give with or without food, but do not “dry pill” or it may cause throat burns. Give a small amount of food or water (about a teaspoon) after pilling.
- ▶ Bitter taste; may require disguising in food to get animal to take it.

How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs and cats for treating infections of the skin, abscesses, and bone. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. Lincomycin may have more side effects than clindamycin and is therefore no longer used as often. You and your veterinarian can discuss why lincomycin 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 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 didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug. Animals nursing from mothers receiving this drug may get diarrhea.
- ▶ 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:

- ▶ Animals that are allergic to it or drugs like it (eg, clindamycin).
- ▶ Horses, rabbits, mice, hamsters, rats, chinchillas, guinea pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, and deer.
- ▶ Animals with candidiasis (ie, a type of fungal infection).

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

- ▶ That have liver or kidney problems.
- ▶ That are very young.

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:

- ▶ Vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach upset.
- ▶ Drooling and lip smacking (especially in cats) after giving by mouth.

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:

- ▶ Bloody diarrhea.
- ▶ Trouble swallowing and loss of appetite due to drug “burns” or ulcers in the throat.
- ▶ Loss of appetite.
- ▶ Yellowing of the skin, gums, or whites of the eyes (jaundice).

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

If my pet 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: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

By mouth:

- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty stomach, but you should always follow “pilling” with a small amount of food or about a teaspoon of water to make sure the capsules do not get stuck in the throat on the way to the stomach. If your pet vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes. Cats do not like the taste of the liquid and will drool and lip smack excessively after receiving the liquid.
- ▶ 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.

By Injection:

- ▶ Your veterinarian or pharmacist will give you all of the items you need to give the shots (needles, syringes, diluent, alcohol swabs). If the medicine needs to be mixed before you give it, mix it exactly as your veterinarian or pharmacist instructs you.
- ▶ Because this drug must be injected, be sure you understand the proper dosage, location(s), and method for giving the shots.
- ▶ Use a new needle and new syringe to give each injection. Do not reuse needles and syringes.
- ▶ It is important to prevent build-up of pressure in the vial when removing doses. Your pharmacist or veterinarian will show you how to remove each dose in a way that does not cause the drug to spray back out of the vial.
- ▶ Injections (shots) may sting. If your animal objects too much, your veterinarian may be able to give you something to mix with the medicine to decrease stinging.
- ▶ 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 vial, 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?

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?

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Be careful not to accidentally stick yourself; do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe. Keep containers out of reach of children and animals. Once about ¾ full, dispose containers according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online or in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.

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