

Minocycline

(mi-noe-sye-kleen)

Category: Tetracycline Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Minocin®, Solodyn®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 50 mg, 75 mg, & 100 mg tablets and capsules; 45 mg, 55 mg, 65 mg, 80 mg, 90 mg, 105 mg, 115 mg, & 135 mg extended release tablets; 50 mg/5 mL (10 mg/mL) oral suspension.

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

- ▶ Oral minocycline products can be given with or without food. Milk or other dairy products do not significantly affect the amount of minocycline absorbed.
- ▶ Do not give as a “dry pill”. Minocycline should be given with a moist treat or small amount of liquid to ensure the medication reaches the stomach (especially important for cats). Minocycline may cause ulcers in the throat and esophagus if it gets stuck there before it reaches the stomach. If your animal has trouble swallowing or eating, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ 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. Do not give antacids including sucralfate, oral iron, or antidiarrheal medicines within 2 hours before or after giving minocycline. These products will reduce its effectiveness.
- ▶ This drug may make your animal’s skin more sensitive to sunlight and increase the risk for sunburn on hairless areas (eg, nose, around eyelids and ears). Tell your veterinarian if you notice any reddening (sunburn) on the skin while your animal is on this medication.

How is this medication useful?

Minocycline is an antibiotic used to treat certain bacterial infections. 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 products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions 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 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.
- ▶ 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 or drugs like it (eg, doxycycline, tetracycline).
- ▶ Are pregnant or nursing unless the benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to the offspring.

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

- ▶ Have liver problems.
- ▶ Are young and still developing bones and teeth.
- ▶ Are in the first half of pregnancy.

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 and reduced appetite. If any of these signs occur, try giving the next dose with a small amount of food to see if it helps.
- ▶ Diarrhea.
- ▶ Reddening (sunburn) of hairless skin around nose, eyelids, and ears when exposed to sunlight.

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:

- ▶ Lack of energy, weakness, or lack of an appetite could indicate bone marrow toxicity (rare).
- ▶ Vomiting; severe or bloody diarrhea; loss of appetite; yellowing of eyes, skin, or gums (jaundice); bleeding; seizures (convulsions); or severe changes in behavior.
- ▶ Loss of appetite, vomiting, regurgitation, or trouble swallowing may indicate damage to the throat or esophagus has occurred from the medication getting stuck on the way to the stomach.

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.

- ▶ In small animals, minocycline can be given with or without food. Do not give as a “dry pill” to help prevent damage to the throat or esophagus if the tablet or capsule gets stuck before it reaches the stomach. Give medication with a moist treat or small amount of liquid to ensure that the tablet or capsule reaches the stomach. In cats, buttering the lips can cause salivation, which helps the drug pass to the stomach.
- ▶ Oral antacids, iron, or bismuth subsalicylate (eg, *Pepto-Bismol*®) should be separated from minocycline doses by 2 hours.
- ▶ 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 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?

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 left over 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.

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