

Pantoprazole

(pan-toe-prah-zohl)

Category: Proton Pump Inhibitor (Stomach Acid Reducer)

Other Names for this Medication: Protonix®, Pantoloc®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None. **Human:** 20 mg and 40 mg delayed-release tablets; 40 mg delayed-release granules for 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

- ▶ Used to treat or prevent stomach ulcers.
- ▶ Works best if given before the first meal of the day.
- ▶ Do not break or cut tablets.

How is this medication useful?

Pantoprazole is used to prevent and/or treat stomach ulcers and may also be used in treating *Helicobacter pylori* 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 animal patients. 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 with you 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 pantoprazole 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 pantoprazole, so tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, and herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, including the amount and schedule of each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your pet may have or may have 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, may become pregnant, or is 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:

- ▶ Have had an allergic reaction to it or similar drugs (eg, esomeprazole, omeprazole) in the past.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- ▶ Pantoprazole is generally well tolerated in both dogs and cats, but it may cause vomiting, decreased appetite, excessive gas, and diarrhea.

You do not have to be overly concerned if you see any of these unless they are severe, are persistent, or worsen. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

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

Overdoses of pantoprazole can be serious. If you know or think your animal has gotten too much of this medication, 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. Do not open capsules or break tablets unless instructed to do so by your veterinarian or pharmacist. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.
- ▶ Pantoprazole should be given about 30 minutes before a meal, generally the first meal of the day. If your animal vomits or acts sick after getting it on an empty stomach, give it with the meal instead. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- ▶ Pantoprazole is usually not used for longer than 4 weeks in dogs and cats. If the benefits outweigh the risks, however, it may be given for a longer period of time.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of pantoprazole 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 dosing and to reduce 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, wait and give the next dose when it is usually time to do so. Do not double up doses or give an extra dose.

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, out of direct sunlight. Keep away from children and other animals.
- ▶ Liquids should be stored exactly as recommended and discarded by the date shown on the prescription bottle.
- ▶ 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. Please 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.