

Piperazine

(pi-per-a-zeen)

Category: Antiparasitic Agent

Other Names for this Medication: Pipa-Tabs®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Oral Tablets 50 mg & 250 mg. Additional over-the-counter (OTC) products and combination products may be available for a variety of species. **Human:** None.

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

- ▶ Deworming medication used to treat roundworms; not effective against many other intestinal parasites.
- ▶ Adverse effects are unlikely, but diarrhea, vomiting, incoordination (eg, stumbling, clumsiness), and weakness are possible in dogs and cats.

How is this medication useful?

Piperazine is used to treat roundworms in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract of a variety of species, including dogs and cats. Piperazine is not effective against many other types of gastrointestinal parasites and should not be used for parasites other than roundworms. 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.
- ▶ With chronic liver or kidney disease.
- ▶ That have digestive problems such as chronic constipation.

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

- ▶ Animals that have a seizure disorder (eg, epilepsy).
- ▶ Horses that have a heavy infestation of roundworms as intestinal blockage and rupture are possible.

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?

Common but usually not serious side effects include:

- ▶ Dogs & Cats: When given at recommended doses to dogs and cats, side effects from piperazine are uncommon, but diarrhea, vomiting, and unsteadiness/clumsiness may be seen. If these occur, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- ▶ Horses and foals: Side effects from piperazine are uncommon when given at recommended dosages, but soft stools may be seen.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Dogs & Cats: weakness, trouble breathing, muscle twitches, rear leg unsteadiness, excessive drooling, depression, dehydration, head-pressing, and eye and pupil changes.
- ▶ Horses and foals: signs of colic (eg, kicking at abdomen, rolling), low energy level.

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 of piperazine may cause serious effects. 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.

- ▶ The drug may be given either with food or on an empty 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.
- ▶ Usually the drug is redosed 2-3 weeks after the first dose in 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 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?

- ▶ Do not use laxatives with piperazine as they may cause the drug to be eliminated from the body before it is fully effective.
- ▶ 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.