

Posaconazole

(*poe-sa-kon-a-zole*)

Category: Antifungal Agent

Other Names for this Medication: Noxafil®

Common Dosage Forms: **Veterinary:** None. **Human:** 100 mg delayed-release tablets, 40 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 pet. If you have other questions or need more information, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Antifungal medicine that may be used to treat serious systemic fungal infections in cats or small dogs.
- ▶ Treatment may need to continue for many months.
- ▶ Appears to be well-tolerated; stomach and intestinal upset possible.
- ▶ Delayed-release tablets may not be substituted for the oral suspension.

How is this medication useful?

Posaconazole is used to treat serious systemic fungal infections in cats and small dogs. 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 and use human products containing this drug in animals 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 to my pet?

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 medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your pet, 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 did not 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.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Posaconazole appears to be well tolerated in dogs and cats; however, this drug is not used often in these patients, so you should report any concerns about your animal to your veterinarian.

Side effects that may be serious include:

- ▶ Mild stomach and intestinal upset.

If this sign becomes severe, worsens, or continues to be a problem, contact your veterinarian.

Side effects that may be serious include:

- ▶ Persistent vomiting, diarrhea, or lack of an 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 animal 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 open 24 hours a day include: **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); a consultation fee may be charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work properly, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ The drug should be given with food. If your animal 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.
- ▶ 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 reduce the stress of medication time for both you and your animal.
- ▶ 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. If you want to stop giving this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue giving it.

What should I do if I miss giving my animal a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember, but if it is close enough 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 prepared (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.
- ▶ Your veterinarian will need to monitor your animal closely while receiving this medicine. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

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