

Pyrimethamine with Sulfadiazine (Horses)

(pye-ri-meth-a-meen with sul-fa-dye-a-zeen)

Category: Antiprotozoal Agent

Other Names for this Medication: ReBalance®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: Pyrimethamine 12.5 mg/mL with Sulfadiazine 250 mg/mL Oral Suspension. **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

- ▶ Shake well before each use.
- ▶ Give at least 1 hour before feeding with hay or grain.
- ▶ Using oral dosing syringe, place tip in the interdental space (entering side of the mouth behind front teeth) and apply the dose on the back of the tongue.
- ▶ During the first few days of treatment, neurologic signs (eg, weakness, trouble walking) may worsen and may last up to 5 weeks; this may be due to inflammation caused by dying parasites in the central nervous system.
- ▶ Adverse effects include: loose stools/diarrhea, reduced appetite, itching.
- ▶ Contact your veterinarian immediately if you see excessive bleeding, extreme tiredness/lack of energy, infection, fever, poor appetite.
- ▶ **Pregnant women should handle this drug with caution.**

How is this medication useful?

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in horses with equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM), a neurologic disease caused by a parasite named *Sarcocystis neuroana*. The FDA does allow veterinarians to prescribe and use 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 tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your horse, as well as the amount and schedule of each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your horse 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 horse 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 horses:

- ▶ That are allergic to pyrimethamine, sulfadiazine, or other sulfonamide drugs.
- ▶ That will be used for human consumption.

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

- ▶ That have liver or kidney problems.
- ▶ That have bone marrow problems or other blood disorders.
- ▶ That are receiving other drugs that can affect bone marrow.
- ▶ That are pregnant or nursing as safe use has not yet been established.

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?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Loose stools, diarrhea.
- ▶ Reduced appetite.
- ▶ Itching.

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:

- ▶ Extreme tiredness/lack of energy, bleeding, bruising, or signs indicating infection (eg, fever).
- ▶ Seizures.

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 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.

- ▶ Give at least 1 hour before feeding with hay or grain.
- ▶ Shake suspension well before drawing up the dose into an oral syringe.

- ▶ Place the tip of the syringe in the interdental space (entering side of the mouth behind front teeth) and apply the dose on the back of the tongue.
- ▶ 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 its original child-resistant prescription bottle at room temperature; protect from freezing.
- ▶ 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?

People who are allergic (hypersensitive) to it and pregnant women should be very careful not to accidentally take it. **Because this drug has a higher risk for causing birth defects, pregnant women should wear disposable gloves when giving doses or handling the drug and avoid inhaling any dust from split or crushed tablets.** Skin or eyes exposed to powder or liquids containing the drug should immediately be washed or rinsed off thoroughly.

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?

- ▶ A complete blood count will need to be done at least every month to watch for problems caused by the medicine.
- ▶ 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.