

Tolfenamic Acid

(tole-fen-a-mic)

Category: Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agent (NSAID)

Other Names for this Medication: Tolfedine®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: None in the US. In Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe: 6 mg, 30 mg, & 60 mg oral tablets; 40 mg/mL injection. **Human:** None in the US.

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

- ▶ Approved for dogs and cats in some countries but not currently available in the US.
- ▶ Oral doses should be given with food.
- ▶ Usually used only for a few days in cats and for a few days each week in dogs.
- ▶ Vomiting and diarrhea have been reported as side effects in dogs and cats.

How is this medication useful?

Tolfenamic acid is used to treat pain and/or inflammation in dogs, cats, and cattle. This medication is not currently approved by the FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) for use in animals or humans. 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.
- ▶ That are allergic to it or severely allergic to other drugs like it (eg, other anti-inflammatories, aspirin).

- ▶ That have bloody stools or bloody vomit.
- ▶ That have a pre-existing kidney or liver condition.
- ▶ That have any condition predisposing them to dehydration.
- ▶ That are anorexic (loss of appetite).
- ▶ Animals that are taking other NSAIDs (eg, carprofen, etodolac, firocoxib, deracoxib), aspirin, or corticosteroids (eg, prednisone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone), as there is a greater chance of adverse effects occurring.
- ▶ With active gastrointestinal (GI) bleeding or ulceration.

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

- ▶ That have a history of stomach or gastrointestinal ulcers. Tolfenamic acid may make these ulcers worse or come back.
- ▶ That are dehydrated, have low blood pressure, or are receiving diuretic treatment (eg, furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide).
- ▶ That are receiving other drugs that can cause kidney problems (eg, aminoglycoside antibiotics, amphotericin B).
- ▶ That have a bleeding disorder (eg, von Willebrand disease).
- ▶ That are old, weak, or frail.
- ▶ With decreased liver or kidney function.
- ▶ That will be having surgery soon.
- ▶ That are pregnant.

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 or diarrhea.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either 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:

- ▶ Poor appetite or drinking more or less than normal.
- ▶ Blood in the vomit or stools.

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.

- ▶ The drug should be given with food.
- ▶ 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.

By Injection:

- ▶ Your veterinarian or pharmacist will give you all of the items you need to administer the solution for injection (needles, syringes, diluent, alcohol swabs). If the medicine needs to be mixed before you give it, mix it exactly as your veterinarian or pharmacist instructs you.
- ▶ Use a new needle and new syringe to give each injection. Do not reuse needles and syringes.
- ▶ Because this drug must be injected, be sure you understand the proper dose, location(s), and method for giving the shots.
- ▶ Injections (shots) may sting. If your animal objects too much, your veterinarian may be able to give you something to mix with it to decrease stinging.
- ▶ 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 vial, 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?

People who are allergic 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 and your physician contacted.

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.
- ▶ If you are injecting this medication at home, place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Be careful not to accidentally stick yourself; do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe. Keep containers out of reach of children and pets. Once about ¾ full, dispose containers according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online and in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.
- ▶ For the safety of your animal, your veterinarian will need to do periodic blood tests while on tolfenamic acid. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.

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