



Medicine series

Practice details

# Clemastine

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called clemastine, also known as meclastin. It may have a trade name such as Tavegil, but often will just be called clemastine.

## What is clemastine?

Clemastine belongs to a group of medicines that are called antihistamines. These drugs block histamine receptors in the skin.

## Why has my pet been prescribed clemastine?

Your pet has been prescribed clemastine to help control and reduce the outbreak of allergen-related symptoms like itchy skin or skin inflammation (as can be seen in atopic dermatitis).

## How should I store clemastine?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. The tablets are fine to be stored at room temperature, away from light. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give clemastine tablets or syrup to my pet?

Clemastine is given via the mouth. Try to disguise it in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes and give this to them before their main meal. Alternatively, it can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

## How long will my pet need to take clemastine?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that the medication is administered as prescribed even if your pet is not itchy. If your pet is still unwell at the end of the course, then you should contact your vet as soon as possible.

## What should I do if I run out of clemastine?

Try to ensure that you have enough medication in advance of it running out. However, if you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately** if your pet receives an overdose of clemastine and do not give any more medication.

## Can my pet take clemastine if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. Antihistamines are generally safe to use alongside other drugs but your vet will give you advice.

## What are the possible side effects of clemastine for my pet?

Antihistamines are generally well tolerated but can cause sedation or sometimes hyperexcitability. You may also notice that your pet has a dry mouth. Antihistamines should be avoided in pregnant animals and animals with pre-existing seizures, glaucoma or urinary retention.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking clemastine?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication or you feel they are excessively sedated, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, they should contact their doctor **immediately**. This leaflet along with any remaining medication and its containers (even if they are empty) should be taken with them.

## Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and further information on clemastine.

## The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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