



Medicine series

Practice details

# Cisapride

- 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 cisapride. It may have a trade name such as Propulsid®, but often will just be called cisapride.

## What is cisapride?

Cisapride is a prokinetic medication, which increases the motility of the gastrointestinal tract. It works by causing the smooth muscle of the digestive tract to contract more frequently, speeding up the passage of food.

## Why has my pet been prescribed cisapride?

Cisapride is often prescribed to treat motility disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, such as constipation, ileus (paralysis) and gastric reflux. In cats, cisapride is often used to treat chronic constipation associated with a paralysed large intestine (megacolon), as well as fur ball problems.

## How should I store cisapride?

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give cisapride tablets to my pet?

Try to disguise the tablets in a small amount of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, they 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 cisapride?

The duration of administration depends on the condition being treated, the response to medication and the development of any adverse side effects. Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients and can be for the rest of their life.

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

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more tablets from your vet if your supply is getting low. 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 a dose is missed, give the medication as soon as possible and continue the regular schedule. **DO NOT** give a 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 an overdose is given. The most common side effects with an overdose are abdominal cramping, diarrhoea and difficulty breathing.

## Can my pet take cisapride 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 and off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store. Cisapride may interact with a range of medications and your vet will advise you on the safety of giving multiple medications. Specific care should be taken when using cisapride in conjunction with other prokinetics, antacids and opioids. As cisapride increases gastric motility, the absorption of other drugs may be altered. In people, clarithromycin, erythromycin and itraconazole can interact with cisapride and cause fatal heart rhythm disorders. If you have any concerns about using cisapride with any other medications, please ask your vet for further advice.

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

Side effects include abdominal cramping, diarrhoea and flatulence. If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, side effects may include facial swelling, hives, vomiting and seizures. Cisapride is no longer used in human medicine due to the incidence of heart rhythm disorders when taken with other medications. If your pet shows *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet **immediately** for advice.

## 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.

While the editors and the BSAVA have made every effort in preparing this information leaflet, the contents and any statements are made in good faith purely for general guidance and cannot be regarded as substitute for professional advice. The publishers, contributors and the BSAVA do not take responsibility for the information provided on this leaflet and hence do not accept any liability for loss or expense incurred (by you or persons that you disseminate the materials to) as a result of relying on content in this leaflet. To this end, you are advised to consult your vet and seek their professional advice before taking any steps set out in this leaflet. If you are a vet, you must not rely on the contents in this leaflet without independently verifying the correctness and veracity of the contents. BSAVA is not responsible for any alterations made to this document from the version supplied.

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

If a person takes your pet's tablets, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

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

If you have any questions about this drug or any concerns with your pet's health, then contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about cisapride.