

Hydrochlorothiazide with amiloride

- 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 hydrochlorothiazide. It may have a trade name such as Co-amiloride, Moduret or Moduretic, but often will just be called hydrochlorothiazide.

What is hydrochlorothiazide?

Hydrochlorothiazide belongs to a group of drugs known as diuretics. These act to help reduce fluid retention. Hydrochlorothiazide is typically combined with another diuretic, amiloride.

Why has my pet been prescribed hydrochlorothiazide?

Vets typically use hydrochlorothiazide during end-stage management of heart failure. It is used as an additional diuretic when first-line options (furosemide/torsemide) are not working well enough alone. It is often termed 'sequential nephron blockade' when these are used, as the different diuretics act in different parts of the kidney, leading to more water loss. Hydrochlorothiazide may also be prescribed to try to decrease the production of calcium oxalate kidney and bladder stones.

How should I store hydrochlorothiazide?

Hydrochlorothiazide tablets should be kept in a container at room temperature. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give hydrochlorothiazide tablets to my pet?

The medication should be given by mouth at the frequency prescribed by your vet. Do not give more than the stated dose. It can be administered with food. Alternatively, the tablets can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

How long will my pet need to take hydrochlorothiazide?

Your vet will guide you on this. It is likely that, once your pet starts taking hydrochlorothiazide, they will require it for the rest of their life.

What should I do if I run out of tablets?

If you run out of medication, you should contact your vet, who has a good understanding of your pet's condition and the reasons for prescribing hydrochlorothiazide. If necessary, they will organize for you to have more as soon as possible.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, you can either give the dose straight away and re-establish the correct dosing interval or wait until the next dose is due. **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. Ensure you continue all other medications.

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

Contact your vet immediately for advice. Overdoses can cause severe electrolyte disturbances, dehydration and kidney damage. Your pet may become weak, nauseous and have kidney failure. They will need to be assessed by your vet and closely monitored.

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

Hydrochlorothiazide is commonly prescribed as an additional medicine. Therefore, it should be used in combination with any other medications which have been prescribed by your vet. Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, including off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

What are the possible side effects of hydrochlorothiazide for my pet?

Hydrochlorothiazide works on the filtration system in the kidneys by increasing the loss of electrolytes (salts) from the body, which increases the loss of water. If your pet has kidney disease or this drug causes kidney damage, they may experience nausea and vomiting, dehydration and excessive thirst, or weakness from the electrolyte losses.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should stop the medication and contact your vet as soon as possible.

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

If a person accidentally takes the medication, you should go to a local hospital or contact a local doctor **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 concerns about your pet's health, contact your vet. They will know your pet's medical history and can provide further information on hydrochlorothiazide.