

Metoclopramide

Reglan® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Metoclopramide is used to stimulate the stomach to prevent vomiting as well as help move food and hairballs from the stomach into the intestines. It is not useful in treating constipation, however, as it has little effect on the colon or large intestines.
- It is also useful in preventing stomach acid from backing up into the throat (esophageal reflux).
- Metoclopramide has also been used to prevent the vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Metoclopramide and drugs like it should not be used in animals that are allergic to it. Metoclopramide is very similar to the sunscreen agent, PABA, and humans allergic to sunscreens should avoid contact with metoclopramide.
- Metoclopramide should not be given to animals who have a stomach blockage, stomach bleeding or have a blockage in the intestines.
- Metoclopramide should not be used in animals that have ever had seizures as it may increase the risk of having another seizure.
- Metoclopramide should not be given to animals with a tumor known as pheochromocytoma as this drug may cause a fatal increase in blood pressure.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- Metoclopramide has very few side effects, but the most common side effects seen are constipation, behavior and attitude changes.
- Some dogs and cats may get very frenzied and disoriented.
- If injected into the veins of horses very fast, metoclopramide can cause severe stomach pain and frenzied behavior. This side effect is not generally seen with oral doses of metoclopramide in horses.

How Should It Be Given?

- Metoclopramide may be given as an injection by your veterinarian or as oral tablets and liquid to be given three times daily.
- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive metoclopramide tablets or syrup orally three to four times daily. Sometimes metoclopramide injection will be sent home with an owner for injection underneath the skin of the pet.
- **Horses:** Horses generally only receive metoclopramide as a slow injection into the vein in the veterinary clinic. Metoclopramide is an ARCI (Association of Racing Commissioners International) Class 4 drug.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Metoclopramide tablets, syrup and injection should be stored in a tight, light resistant, child-proof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Metoclopramide is considered a Class 4 drug under the Uniform Classification Guidelines for the Association of Racing Commissioners International.