

Metronidazole (*Flagyl*[®])

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SUMMARY:

- 1) This is an antibiotic used to treat anaerobic bacterial infections. It is also used to treat Giardia and protozoal infections.
- 2) This medication is also commonly used to treat diarrhea. Metronidazole is an anti-inflammatory in the GI tract and also treats some bacterial infections in the gut.
- 3) Please finish the entire course of medication unless instructed to do otherwise by a veterinarian.
- 4) If your pet experiences any neurologic signs, please seek immediate veterinary attention.

EXPLANATION:

Metronidazole is a drug with several different uses. It is an antibiotic which treats anaerobic bacterial infections. It is also an antiparasitic that treats both giardia and protozoal infections. Finally, It has anti-inflammatory properties in the GI tract, and therefore can be used in conditions such as stress related diarrhea (stress colitis), HGE and inflammatory bowel disease.

SIDE EFFECTS:

- 1) Dogs, particularly those dogs on high doses or long term therapy, may experience sudden and severe neurologic signs including inability to walk, dizziness, head tilt, rapid movements of the eyes and rarely seizures. These signs are reversible if they occur, but immediate veterinary attention is warranted.
- 2) This medication has a sharp metallic taste that some animals object to. If you are having difficulties giving this medication to you pet ask your veterinarian about other formulations and compounded productions.
- 3) Uncommonly other side effects such as low white blood cell counts, blood in the urine, liver toxicity and GI problems have been associated with this drug.

