

Topiramate (*Topamax*[®])

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SUMMARY:

- 1) If your pet experiences GI upset, irritability or inappetance, contact your veterinarian.
- 2) Full bloodwork is recommended every 6 to 12 months.

EXPLANATION:

Topimax is an anticonvulsant or seizure medication. The goal of this medication is to make your pet's seizure less frequent and less severe. It is unlikely that any seizure medication will make your pet 100% seizure free.

It is very important to give this medication on schedule. Make a note of when you need refills, and try to get them at least one week in advance. Set a timer on your watch or phone to help remind you to give the medication on schedule.

This medication is usually given twice a day, and may be given with or without food.

SIDE EFFECTS:

This medication seems to be very well tolerated overall. The following side effects have been reported.

- 1) GI upset including vomiting, diarrhea and inappetance
- 2) Drowsiness and incoordination- these side effects may lessen with time
- 3) Irritability or nervousness
- 4) Glaucoma and kidney stones have been reported in people on this medication, but have yet to be reported in dogs and cats.

MONITORING:

As Topiramate is still relatively new to veterinary medicine, it's possible that we have yet to see all of the side effects that can happen with long term use.

Therefore we recommend full blood work (CBC and Chemistry) and urinalysis every 6 to 12 months.

