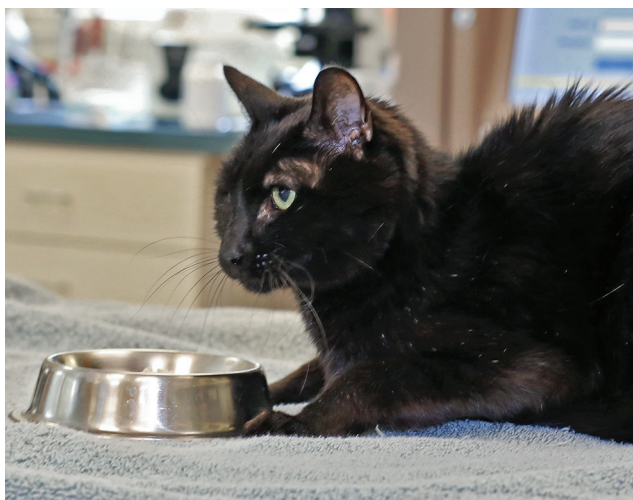


Mirtazapine

Tetracyclic Antidepressant;
5-HT₃ Antagonist



Prescriber Highlights

- Used primarily as an appetite stimulant and antiemetic in dogs and cats
- Primary side effect is sedation
- In cats, vocalization and increased affection can be noted
- Use lowest effective dose to reduce sedative properties
- Do not exceed 30 mg q24h when using for appetite stimulation in dogs
- Can be used in conjunction with other antiemetics

Uses, Indications

- Used mainly as an appetite stimulant and antiemetic in patients with chronic kidney disease
- Higher doses (3.75 mg per cat) are associated with significantly more noticeable behavioral changes
- Can potentially be used to treat chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, behavior-related conditions, congestive heart failure, GI disorders, liver disease, or neoplasia

Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings

- **Contraindications**
Patients hypersensitive to mirtazapine; patients that have received monoamine oxidase inhibitors within 14 days
- **Precautions**
Has been associated with orthostatic hypotension in people and should be used with caution in patients with known cardiac disease or cerebrovascular disease that could be exacerbated by hypotension
- **Warnings**
Abrupt discontinuation after long-term administration has resulted in withdrawal symptoms (eg, nausea, headaches, malaise) in humans

Side Effects

- Drowsiness, sedation
- Vocalization and increased affection in cats
- Hypotension
- Tachycardia
- Increase in liver enzymes has been reported in cats

Drug Interactions

- Cyproheptadine may negate the effects of mirtazapine
- Tramadol, selegiline, linezolid, and amitraz may increase the risk for serotonin syndrome

Client Information

- Tolerated well in dogs
- Most side effects are noted in cats

Monitoring

- Clinical efficacy is measured by increased appetite, decreased vomiting episodes, and weight gain
- Liver enzymes in cats
- Adverse effects on behavior

Dosage Forms

- Mirtazapine oral tablets: 7.5, 15, 30, and 45 mg

—Compiled and summarized from *Plumb's Veterinary Drugs* by Shannon Palermo, VMD

Information about this drug was adapted from *Plumb's Veterinary Drugs*.
Further details and more therapeutics can be found with a subscription at plumbsveterinarydrugs.com