

Pimobendan

Inodilator (Systemic Drug)



Prescriber Highlights

- Oral drug used to treat congestive heart failure (CHF) in dogs
- Has been demonstrated to prolong the time to onset of CHF or cardiac-related death in dogs with stage B2 myxomatous mitral valve disease

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

Uses, Indications

- Used primarily in dogs with CHF secondary to dilated cardiomyopathy or chronic mitral valve insufficiency
- Studies have shown pimobendan can improve survival times and quality of life compared with standard treatment (ie, an ACE inhibitor and furosemide)
- Limited evidence exists for use in cats with restrictive and dilated cardiomyopathy

Contraindications, Precautions, Warnings

- **Contraindications**
Patients hypersensitive to pimobendan and those with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, aortic stenosis, or any other condition in which an augmentation of cardiac output is inappropriate for functional or anatomic reasons
- **Precautions**
Patients with uncontrolled cardiac arrhythmias
- **Warnings**
Pimobendan use has not been evaluated in dogs younger than 6 months of age, dogs used for breeding, pregnant or lactating bitches, and dogs with congenital heart defects, diabetes mellitus, or other serious metabolic diseases

Side Effects

- GI upset
- Potential increased risk for arrhythmias

Drug Interactions

- Simultaneous use with calcium antagonists (eg, verapamil, diltiazem) and β antagonists (eg, propranolol, atenolol) can lessen pimobendan-induced increases in heart contractility

Monitoring

- Cardiovascular parameters, including ECG, blood pressure, echo studies, and clinical signs, should be used to monitor heart function

Client Information

- Best given on an empty stomach
- Most likely side effects are GI-related

Dosage Forms

- The following product is labeled for veterinary use
– Pimobendan chewable tablets: 1.25 mg, 2.5 mg, 5 mg, and 10 mg

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