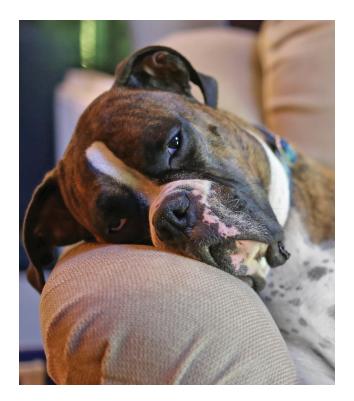
# Metronidazole

## Antibiotic, Antiprotozoal (Systemic Drug)



#### **Prescriber Highlights**

- Injectable and oral antibacterial and antiprotozoal agent
- Main side effects include neurologic disorders, lethargy, weakness, hepatotoxicity
- Bitter tasting; may be more palatable when compounded

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 for treatment of Giardia spp in both dogs and cats, in addition to several other parasitic infections (eg, trichomonads, Balantidium coli) and anaerobic enteric and systemic infections
- Commonly used for perioperative surgical prophylaxis when anaerobic infections (eg, colon, periodontal) are likely
- Has some inhibitory actions on cell-mediated immunity that may play a role in its use for treatment of inflammatory bowel disease

### Contraindications,

- Precautions, Warnings
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   Patients with a history
   of hypersensitivity to
   metronidazole or nitro imidazole derivatives
- Precautions
   Not recommended for use in severely debilitated, pregnant, or nursing patients; use with caution in patients with hepatic dysfunction
- Warnings
   Total daily dose should not exceed 65 mg/kg because of risk for neurotoxicity

#### Side Effects

- Neurologic disorders, lethargy, weakness, neutropenia, hepatotoxicity, hematuria, nausea, anorexia, vomiting, and diarrhea have been reported in dogs
- Neurologic toxicity in dogs may occur with acute high

doses but is more common with chronic moderate- to high-dose therapy

- Vomiting, inappetence, and hepatotoxicity can occur in cats undergoing metronidazole therapy
- Central nervous toxicity, although rare, can also occur in cats

#### **Drug Interactions**

- Cimetidine may decrease the metabolism of metronidazole, increasing the possibility of doserelated side effects
- Cyclosporine levels may increase when combined with metronidazole therapy
- Fluorouracil (5-FU) may result in increased 5-FU levels and possible toxicity
- Phenobarbital or phenytoin may increase the metabolism of metronidazole, decreasing blood levels
- Metronidazole may prolong prothrombin time in patients receiving warfarin or other coumarin anticoagulants

#### Monitoring

Clinical efficacy, side effects

#### **Client Information**

 Clients should pay close attention to any neurologic abnormalities

#### **Dosage Forms**

- Metronidazole oral tablets: 250 mg, 500 mg
- Metronidazole oral solution: 5 mg/mL

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