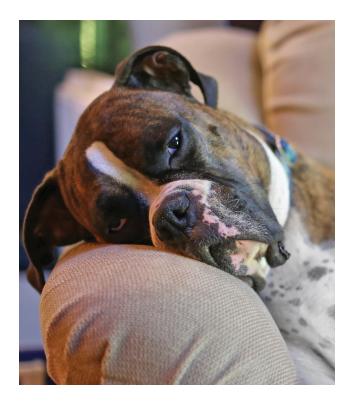
Metronidazole

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
- Contraindications
 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