

## Cyproheptadine

### - Drug Information

#### **Brand Names:**

Periactin®

#### **Pharmacology:**

H1 receptor antihistamine with serotonin antagonist properties. Antagonizes the effects of histamine.

#### **Indications:**

May be useful as an antihistamine but is used primarily as an appetite stimulant in cats.

#### **Contraindications:**

##### **- General**

Contraindicated in patients with a prior hypersensitivity to this type of drug.

Use with caution in patients with prostatic hypertrophy, bladder neck obstruction, angle-closure glaucoma, severe heart failure and pyeloduodenal obstruction.

Use only when benefit outweighs the risk during pregnancy as safety has not been established.

#### **Interactions:**

##### **- General Interactions**

No identified General Interactions at time of publishing.

##### **- Category Interactions**

- Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor

Consider physostigmine to aid in the treatment of serious cyproheptadine overdose.

- CNS depressant

Additive sedation is expected when used with other CNS depressants.

- MAOI - Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor

Anticholinergic effects may be intensified by concurrent MAO inhibitors.

- SSRI-Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor

May decrease or reverse the effects of SSRI drugs.

##### **- Drug Interactions**

#### **Adverse Effects:**

##### **- General**

Sedation and anticholinergic effects-dry mouth, tachycardia are expected.

##### **- Small Animal**

- Dog

Polyphagia has been reported at higher doses in dogs.

- Cat

Cats may experience paradoxical hyperexcitability.

##### **- Large Animal**

- Horse

Depression, anorexia and lethargy are possible in horses.

#### **Dosages:**

##### **- Small Animal**

- Dog

Antihistamine- 0.3 - 2 mg/kg by mouth twice daily - three times daily

- Cat

Appetite stimulant: 1 - 4 mg PER CAT by mouth one to two times daily - may take up to 24 hours for response. Give for 1 week then taper OR 0.35 - 1 mg/kg by mouth once to twice daily

##### **- Large Animal**

- Horse

For Photic Head Shaking: 0.3 - 0.6 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours

**Special Notes:**

The use of this drug in veterinary patients is considered extra-label as no veterinary approved product is available. Information regarding its use is derived from general veterinary references such as those listed in the VPR Help File under references. For additional information consult the drug manufacturer. It remains the responsibility of the prescribing veterinarian to familiarize themselves with the package insert or additional information provided by the drug manufacturer.