

Methimazole

- Drug Information

Brand Names:

Tapazole®, Felimazole®

Pharmacology:

Antithyroid drug

Indications:

For feline hyperthyroidism.

May be of benefit as a prophylaxis for CISplatin induced nephrotoxicity in dogs.

Contraindications:

- General

Contraindicated in pregnant or lactating queens. Methimazole is a known teratogen - there is also a high rate to transfer into breast milk.

Contraindicated in patients with known sensitivity to this type of drug.

Use with caution in patients with liver disease, autoimmune disease, kidney disease or blood disorders.

Use in cats with renal dysfunction should be carefully evaluated - reversal of hyperthyroidism may result in decreased glomerular filtration rate and a decline in renal function unmasking underlying renal disease.

Use in male cats used for breeding has not been evaluated.

Wash hands with soap and water after administering tablet - do not crush or break tablet.

Wear protective gloves to prevent contact with litter, feces, urine or vomit of treated cats and broken or moistened tablets.

Pregnant women or women who plan to become pregnant and nursing mothers should wear gloves when handling tablets, litter or body fluid of treated cats.

Interactions:

- General Interactions

May interfere with radioactive iodine therapy - Discontinue ipodate for 3-4 weeks prior to treatment if possible.

- Category Interactions

- Anticoagulant

May potentiate anticoagulants.

- Benzimidazole / related

Methimazole reduces hepatic oxidation of benzimidazole anthelmintics leading to increased plasma concentrations of these drugs if used concurrently.

- Beta adrenergic blocker

Dose may need to be adjusted once euthyroid state is achieved.

- Cardiac glycoside

Dose may need to be adjusted once euthyroid state is achieved.

- Drug Interactions

- PHENobarbital

May reduce the clinical efficacy of felimazole.

- Theophylline

Dose may need to be adjusted once euthyroid state is achieved.

Adverse Effects:

- General

Most occur within the first 3 months of therapy.

Use of drug should be discontinued immediately if any signs develop. Appropriate bloodwork should be done and reinitiation evaluated based on results.

Anorexia, lethargy, vomiting, dermatitis, bleeding, hepatopathy, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis, leukopenia, eosinophilia and lymphocytosis are also possible.

Glucocorticoid responsive pruritus of the face , ears and neck may occur.
Other more serious but rare adverse effects include bleeding - methimazole has anti vitamin K activity and may induce bleeding diathesis without evidence of thrombocytopenia
Other serious uncommon side effects include hepatopathy, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis and positive direct antiglobulin test. These effects generally require withdrawal of the drug and adjunctive therapy.
Rarely cats will develop an acquired myasthenia gravis that requires either withdrawal or concomitant glucocorticoid therapy.

Dosages:**- General**

Wash hands with soap and water after administering tablet - do not crush or break tablet.
Wear protective gloves to prevent contact with litter, feces, urine or vomit of treated cats and broken or moistened tablets.

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- Small Animal**- Cat**

5 mg twice to three times a day. Goal is to maintain T4 in the low or low normal range. Recheck serum T4, CBC w/platelets and chemistry panel at 2 - 3 week intervals. After first 3 months may recheck less frequently

Felimazole® - starting recommended dose is 2.5 mg PER CAT every 12 hours. Following 3 weeks of treatment the dose should be titrated to effect based on individual serum levels of total T4 and clinical response. Dose adjustment should be made in 2.5 mg increments. Maximum total daily dose is 20 mg PER CAT not to exceed 10 mg as a single administration.

Special Notes:

None