

## MetroNIDAZOLE

### - Drug Information

#### **Brand Names:**

Flagyl®, Metric 21®, Protostat®

#### **Pharmacology:**

Synthetic nitroimidazole antibacterial and antiprotozoal

#### **Indications:**

Used for the treatment of Giardia in dogs and cats.

Also used to treat Trichomonas and Balantidium and for the treatment of enteric and systemic anaerobic infections.

#### **Contraindications:**

##### **- General**

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

Use with extreme caution in debilitated, geriatric or pregnant and nursing animals.

Use with caution in patients with liver disease and those with a history of seizures.

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

WARNING: The FDA has banned the use of this drug in food animals.

#### **Interactions:**

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

May cause increased ALT and AST.

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

- Coumarin Derivative

May prolong PT in patients on anticoagulant therapy.

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

- Cimetidine

Cimetidine may decrease metabolism and increase risk for side effects, particularly neurologic signs.

- Oxytetracycline

May antagonize the therapeutic effects of MetroNIDAZOLE.

- PHENobarbital

PHENobarbital may increase metabolism of MetroNIDAZOLE.

- Phenytoin sodium

Phenytoin may increase metabolism of MetroNIDAZOLE.

#### **Adverse Effects:**

##### **- General**

Anorexia, lethargy, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are possible side effects of this medication.

Neurologic toxicosis has been reported and present with nystagmus, progressive ataxia that leads to recumbency. High dose treatment has usually been implicated but it is also possible with long term low dose treatment.

Neutropenia, liver toxicity, hematuria are rare but possible side effects.

Bitter taste-do not crush tablets prior to administration.

#### **Dosages:**

##### **- General**

High dose treatment has been associated with neurologic toxicosis but it is also possible with long term low dose treatment. Start with low dose and increase dose if necessary. If high dose treatment is needed it is recommended not to exceed 5 days of administration.

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

- Dog

For treatment of Giardia: 25 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours for 8 days OR 44 mg/kg by mouth initially, then 22 mg/kg by mouth every 8 hours for 5 days OR 25 - 65 mg/kg by mouth once daily for

5 days

For other protozoal infections: Entamoeba histolytica or Pentatrichomas hominis: 25 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours for 8 days

For anaerobic bacterial meningitis: 25 - 50 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours

For suppurative cholangitis: 25 - 30 mg/kg by mouth twice daily; may be used with chloramphenicol. Therapy may be necessary for 4 - 6 weeks

For sepsis: 15 mg/kg IV every 12 hours OR 44 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours

For eliminating Helicobacter gastritis infections: Using triple therapy: 1) MetroNIDAZOLE 15.4 mg/kg every 8 hours OR 33 mg/kg once daily, 2) Amoxicillin 11 mg/kg every 8 hours and 3) Bismuth subsalicylate (original Pepto-Bismol®) 0.22 mL/kg by mouth every 4 - 6 hours or either sucralfate (0.25 - 0.5 grams every 8 hours) or omeprazole 0.66 mg/kg once daily

For adjunctive therapy of plasmacytic/lymphocytic enteritis: 10 mg/kg by mouth three times daily for 2 - 4 weeks OR 10 - 30 mg/kg by mouth every 8 - 24 hours for 2 - 4 weeks in refractory cases

For ulcerative colitis in dogs refractory to other therapies: 10 - 20 mg/kg by mouth twice daily - three times daily; may be beneficial in treating for 2 - 4 weeks

For adjunctive therapy of hepatic encephalopathy: 20 mg/kg by mouth every 8 hours

- Cat

For treatment of Giardia: 25 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours daily for 8 days OR 8 - 10 mg/kg by mouth twice daily for 10 days

For other protozoal infections: Entamoeba histolytica or Pentatrichomas hominis: 25 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours for 8 days

For sepsis: 15 mg/kg IV every 12 hours

For inflammatory bowel disease: Initially, 11 - 22 mg/kg by mouth twice daily with PrednisolONE 1.1 - 2.2 mg/kg twice daily for first 2 - 8 weeks until clinical signs improve. Usually at least several months of MetroNIDAZOLE therapy is needed

For adjunctive therapy of hepatic lipidoses: 25 - 30 mg/kg by mouth twice daily for 2 - 3 weeks (unproven, but may be of benefit)

For hepatic encephalopathy: 7.5 mg/kg by mouth every 8 - 12 hours

- Birds (small)

50 mg/kg by mouth once daily for 5 days.

Ratites (not to be used for food): 20 - 25 mg/kg by mouth twice daily

- Rodent

Gerbils, Mice, Rats: 20 - 60 mg/kg by mouth every 8 - 12 hours

- Rabbit

20 mg/kg by mouth every 12 hours for 3 - 5 days or 40 mg/kg by mouth once daily; 5 mg/kg slow IV every 12 hours

- Reptiles

For anaerobic infections in most species: 150 mg/kg by mouth once; repeat in one week.

For amoebae and flagellates in most species: 100 - 275 mg/kg by mouth once; repeat in 1 - 2 weeks. In Drymarchon spp., Lampropeltis pyromelana, & lampropeltis zonata: 40 mg/kg by mouth once; repeat in 2 weeks

- Guinea Pig

20 - 60 mg/kg by mouth every 8 - 12 hours OR 10 - 40 mg/kg by mouth once daily

- Ferret

For eliminating Helicobacter gastritis infections: Using triple therapy: MetroNIDAZOLE 22 mg/kg, Amoxicillin 22 mg/kg and Bismuth subsalicylate (original Pepto-Bismol®) 17.6 mg/kg by mouth. Give each 3 times daily for 3 - 4 weeks

For susceptible infections: 10 - 30 mg/kg by mouth once to twice daily. Very bitter; mask flavor

- Hamster

20 - 60 mg/kg by mouth every 8 - 12 hours OR 7.5 mg/70 - 90 grams of body weight by mouth every 8 hours. Add sucrose to improve palatability

- **Large Animal**

- Cattle

WARNING: The FDA has banned the use of this drug in food animals.

0.3 mg/kg SQ every 4 - 6 hours

- Horse

10 - 25 mg/kg by mouth 2 - 4 times a day

Foals: 15 mg/kg by mouth or IV every 6 - 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.