

Praziquantel

- Drug Information

Brand Names:

Droncit®, Biltricide®, Prazitech™ Injection, AmTech Praziquantel Injection, CestaJect™ Injection, Prazi-Q™ Injection, PraziCest™ Injection, PraziJect™, Tape Worm Tabs™, Prazi-C, Sentry HC@Worm X Plus™, Drontal®, Sergeant's® Vetscription WORMaway® 7, Cestoved™, PraziTabs™

Pharmacology:

Anthelmintic cesticide.

Indications:

Praziquantel is indicated for the treatment of Dipylidium caninum, Taenia pisiformis, and Echinococcus granulosus, and for the treatment and control of Echinococcus multilocularis in dogs, and for the treatment of Dipylidium caninum and Taenia taeniaeformis in cats.

Praziquantel can also be used for treating Alaria spp in dogs and cats and Spirometra mansonioides infections in cats.

Praziquantel has been used in birds and other animals, but it is usually not economically feasible to use in large animals.

Contraindications:

- General

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

- Small Animal

- Dog

Contraindicated in puppies less than 4 weeks old.

Reported safe for use in pregnant dogs.

- Cat

Contraindicated in kitten less than 6 weeks old.

Reported safe for use in pregnant cats.

- Birds

Injectable form is toxic to finches

Interactions:

- General Interactions

No identified General Interactions at time of publishing.

- Category Interactions

- Hepatic enzyme inhibitor

May decrease praziquantel levels.

- Drug Interactions

- Albendazole

May increase Albendazole sulphoxide concentration.

- Cimetidine

May increase the serum concentration of praziquantel.

- Itraconazole

May increase praziquantel levels.

- Ketoconazole

May increase praziquantel levels.

Adverse Effects:

- General

Vomiting, diarrhea, depression and loss of appetite are rare side effects of this medication.

- Small Animal

- Dog

Injection site pain, vomiting, lethargy and staggering has been reported with injectable product.

- Cat

May cause salivation and diarrhea in cats.

Injection site pain, vomiting, lethargy and staggering has been reported with injectable product.

Dosages:

- General

Fasting is not required or recommended.

A single dose is usually effective, but measures should be taken to prevent reinfection (ie, flea control), particularly against *D caninum*.

- Small Animal

- Dog

IM or SQ of 56.8 mg/mL injectable product-

5 pound. or less - 0.3 mL (17 mg)

6 - 10 pound. - 0.5 mL (28.4 mg)

11 - 25 pound. - 1 mL (56.8 mg)

>25 pound. - 0.2 mL / 5 pound. - Max 3 mL.

Oral- Droncit® 34 mg tablet

5 pound. or less- 1/2 tab (17 mg)

6 - 10 pound. - 1 tab (34 mg)

11 - 15 pound. - 1.5 tab (51 mg)

16 - 30 pound. - 2 tab (68 mg)

31 - 45 pound. - 3 tabs (102 mg)

46 - 60 pound. - 4 tabs (136 mg)

over 60 pound. - 5 tabs Max (170 mg)

Extra-label Dosages:

For *Taenia*, *Echinococcus* spp, *Dipylidium caninum*, *Mesocestoides* spp (adult): 5 mg/kg by mouth or SQ

Diphyllobothrium spp: 7.5 mg/kg by mouth either once or for 2 days.

Sparganum proliferum (adult): 7.5 mg/kg or 25 mg/kg by mouth or SQ daily for 2 days.

Spirometra mansonioides or *Diphyllobothrium erinacei*: 7.5 mg/kg, by mouth every 24 hours for 2 days.

Paragonimiasis (*Paragonimus kellicotti*): 23 - 25 mg/kg by mouth every 8 hours for 3 days.

Liver flukes (*Platynosom* spp or *Opisthorchiidae* families): 20 - 40 mg/kg by mouth every 24 hours for 3 - 10 days.

Alaria spp: 20 mg/kg by mouth once or every 24 hours for 2 - 10 days.

Adjunctive treatment of the flukes (*Nanophyetus salmincola*) associated with salmon poisoning:

Single dose of 10 - 30 mg/kg by mouth or SQ.

- Cat

IM, SQ 56.8 mg/mL injectable product-

<5 pound. - 0.2 mL (11.4 mg)

5 - 10 pound. - 0.4 mL (22.7 mg)

>11 pound. - 0.6 mL (34.1 mg)

Oral-Droncit® 23 mg tablet

4 pound. and less - 1/2 tab (11.5 mg)

5 - 11 pound. - 1 tab (23 mg)

>11 pound. - 1.5 tabs (34.5 mg)

Extra-label Dosages:

Paragonimiasis (*Paragonimus kellicotti*): 23 - 25 mg/kg by mouth every 8 hours for 3 days.

Diphyllobothrium spp (adult): 35 mg/kg by mouth once has been recommended.

Sparganum proliferum (adult): 7.5 mg/kg or 25 mg/kg by mouth or SQ daily for 2 days.

Alaria spp: 20 mg/kg by mouth once or every 24 hours for 2 - 10 days.

Taenia spp, *Echinococcus* spp, *Dipylidium caninum*, *Mesocestoides* spp (adult): 5 mg/kg by mouth or SQ as a single dose.

Spirometra mansonioides: 30 - 35 mg/kg by mouth once or every 24 hours for 2 days.

- Birds (small)

Susceptible parasites (tapeworms); (extra-label):

¼ of one 23 mg tablet/kg by mouth; repeat in 10 - 14 days. Add to feed or give by gavage.
Injectable form is toxic to finches.

Cestodes and some trematodes: Direct dose: 5 - 10 mg/kg by mouth or IM as a single dose

- Rodent

Chinchillas, rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs: 6 - 10 mg/kg by mouth or SQ as a single dose.

- Rabbit

5 - 10 mg/kg by mouth once. May repeat in 10 days.

- Reptiles

Note: All are extra-label.

Reptiles: For cestodes and some trematodes in most species: 7.5 mg/kg by mouth once; repeat in 2 weeks by mouth

Cestodes and trematodes in reptiles and amphibians: 7 - 8 mg/kg by mouth, IM, SQ.

- Ferret

5 mg/kg by mouth as a single dose. Alternatively, 5 - 10 mg/kg by mouth, repeat in 10 - 14 days

Trematodes in ferrets: 25 mg/kg by mouth every 24 hours for 3 days (depending on type of trematode).

- Snake

Removal of common tapeworms in snakes: 3.5 - 7 mg/kg.

- Turtle

Removal of susceptible cestodes in tortoises: 8 mg/kg SQ, repeated in 14 days.

- **Large Animal**

- Horse

Anoplocephala perfoliata (extra-label): At 1.5 - 2 mg/kg by mouth

- Sheep

All species of Moniezia spp, Stilesia spp, or Avitellina spp: 10 - 15 mg/kg.

Cestodes: 10 - 15 mg/kg by mouth as a single dose.

- Goat

All species of Moniezia spp, Stilesia spp, or Avitellina spp: 10 - 15 mg/kg.

Cestodes: 10 - 15 mg/kg by mouth as a single dose.

- Llama

5 mg/kg by mouth

- Chicken

Common tapeworms in chickens: 10 mg/kg by mouth

Special Notes:

None