

## Pimobendan

### - Drug Information

#### **Brand Names:**

Vetmedin®

#### **Pharmacology:**

Benzimidazole derivative phosphodiesterase inhibitor - classified as a inodilator - has nonsympathomimetic, nonglycoside inotropic and vasodilator effects - usually decrease heart rate in CHF patients.

#### **Indications:**

For the management of signs of mild, moderate or severe (modified NYHA Class II, III or IV) congestive heart failure in dogs due to atrioventricular valvular insufficiency (AVVI) or dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM); for use with concurrent therapy as appropriate on a case by case basis.

#### **Contraindications:**

##### **- General**

Contraindicated in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, aortic stenosis and in dogs with asymptomatic heart disease.

Contraindicated in patients sensitive to it or to drugs of its type.

Use with caution in patients with uncontrolled cardiac arrhythmias.

Contraindicated in clinical conditions where augmentation of cardiac output is not possible for functional or anatomic reasons.

Use with caution if at all in pregnant, lactating or breeding animals as safety has not been proven.

Safety has not been established in animals less than 6 months of age, for etiologies other than dilated cardiomyopathy, atrioventricular valvular insufficiency, dogs with congenital defects and dogs with diabetes mellitus or other serious metabolic disease.

#### **Interactions:**

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

No identified General Interactions at time of publishing.

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

- ACE inhibitor

Additive vasodilation may occur.

- Beta adrenergic blocker

Pimobendan induced increase in contractility of the heart may be attenuated in the presence of beta blockers.

- Calcium channel blocker

Pimobendan induced increase in contractility of the heart may be attenuated in the presence of calcium channel blockers.

- Vasodilator

Additive vasodilation may occur.

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

#### **Adverse Effects:**

##### **- General**

Clinical experience is limited.

Anorexia, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, melena, PU, PD are possible.

May increase the development of arrhythmias - atrial fibrillation or increased ventricular ectopic beats have been reported in dogs on pimobendan but may have been associated with underlying heart disease and not necessarily related to the drug.

Heart failure death including sudden death, chordae tendinae rupture, left atrial tear, tachycardia, syncope, weak pulses, irregular pulses, increased pulmonary edema, dyspnea, increased respiratory rate, coughing, gagging, pleural effusion, ascites and hepatic congestion.

Shaking, trembling, ataxia, seizures, restlessness, agitation and pruritus are also possible.

Bloodwork changes such as mildly decreased platelet count, azotemia, dehydration, abnormal electrolytes, protein and glucose and mildly elevated hepatic enzymes are also possible.

Foreign report events have included hemorrhage, petechia, anemia, erythema, rash, drooling,

constipation and diabetes mellitus.

**Dosages:**

- General

Clients should be cautioned that the veterinary version of these products are formulated to be palatable to pets. This can increase the likelihood for inadvertent overdose of the medication if the container is not stored with this in mind.

- **Small Animal**

- Dog

For treatment of congestive heart failure secondary to dilated cardiomyopathy or chronic mitral valve insufficiency: 0.5 mg/kg/day using a suitable combination of whole or half tablets, divided into 2 by portions that are not necessarily equal, and the portions administered approximately 12 hours apart.

For treatment of congestive heart failure secondary to myxomatous mitral valve disease: 0.4 - 0.6 mg/kg divided by mouth twice daily

**Special Notes:**

None