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Sacubitril/Valsartan

Description:

Angiotensin Receptor-Neprilysin Inhibitor (ARNI) (heart medication)

Other Names for this Medication:

Entresto

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: None. Human: 24 mg/26 mg, 49 mg/51 mg, and 97 mg/103 mg tablets. Compounded dosage forms are available.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

CRITICAL: Do not give this medication if your animal is currently taking or has recently taken an ACE inhibitor (like enalapril or benazepril). A 24-hour washout period is recommended. In humans, life-threatening swelling occurs when the medications are used simultaneously or without a wash-out period.

This is a combination of two blood pressure medications used to treat heart failure.

Give this medication exactly as prescribed, around the same time every day, to maintain steady levels in the bloodstream.

High potassium levels and changes in kidney function are possible; your veterinarian will require regular blood tests to monitor this.

Do not give potassium supplements, potassium-sparing diuretics, or NSAID pain relievers without explicitly checking with your veterinarian.

How is this medication useful?

In veterinary medicine, Entresto is used to treat chronic heart failure, most commonly in dogs. By combining a neprilysin inhibitor and an angiotensin II receptor blocker, it helps relax blood vessels, decrease fluid volume, and reduce the workload on the heart. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans.

The FDA does allow veterinarians to prescribe and use human products containing this drug in animal species in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

Other drugs can interact with Entresto, especially ACE inhibitors (enalapril, benazepril), NSAIDs (carprofen, meloxicam), and potassium supplements. Be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications you give your animal.

Tell your veterinarian if your animal has ever had an allergic reaction causing facial or airway swelling (angioedema) to other heart medications.

Tell your veterinarian if your animal has kidney disease or liver disease.

If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian immediately. This drug has a severe warning for causing fetal injury or death.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication begins to improve cardiac function and improve heart failure syndrome when a target dosage is reached for several days to weeks. The medication is typically processed and cleared from the body within 24 hours, which is why it usually needs to be given twice daily. The medication will be started at a lower dosage and titrated up to a higher dosage. Improvements are most commonly seen after reaching the higher targeted dosage.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients:

That are currently taking an ACE inhibitor. A 24-hour waiting period is mandatory when switching.

That have a history of angioedema (severe swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat) related to previous medication use.

That are pregnant or nursing.

That are allergic to sacubitril or valsartan.

This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in:

Animals with severe kidney disease.

Animals with liver impairment.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

Dizziness or lightheadedness (your animal may seem unsteady when first standing up).

Mild fatigue or lethargy.

Mild stomach upset, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

You generally don't have to be concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

Allergic Reaction (Angioedema): Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat. This is a medical emergency.

Extreme weakness, collapse, or fainting (signs of dangerously low blood pressure). Significant changes in urination (drinking or urinating much more or much less than normal), which can indicate kidney issues.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

An overdose of Entresto can cause a severe and dangerous drop in blood pressure, leading to collapse or shock. If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center immediately for further advice.

Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661) and ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

Give by mouth, with or without food.

Do not crush or break the tablets unless specifically instructed to do so by your veterinarian or pharmacist.

This medication is typically given long-term for chronic heart disease. Do not stop giving this medication without talking to your veterinarian first, as stopping suddenly could worsen your animal's heart condition.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, give it when you remember. However, if it is close to the time for the next scheduled dose, skip the missed dose and go back to the regular schedule. Do not double-up doses or give extra medication to make up for the missed dose.

How should I store this medication?

Store this medication in the original tightly closed prescription bottle at room temperature (between 68°F and 77°F).

Protect the medication from moisture and strong light. Do not store in a bathroom cabinet.

Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

Because this drug carries a strict warning for causing fetal harm, pregnant women or women who may become pregnant should use extreme caution and avoid handling broken or crushed tablets. For all others, there are no specific precautions required other than standard hygiene. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash. Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

Your veterinarian will need to perform periodic blood tests to check your animal's kidney values and blood potassium levels while on this medication. Keeping these follow-up appointments is critical for your animal's safety.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.