



Medicine series

Practice details

Paroxetine

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called paroxetine. It may have a trade name such as Paxil or Seroxat, but often will just be called paroxetine.

What is paroxetine?

Budesonide belongs to a group of medicines called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). These medicines block the recycling of a chemical called serotonin in the brain, which helps to manage anxiety or stress.

Why has my pet been prescribed paroxetine?

Your pet has been prescribed paroxetine to manage a behavioural condition they are displaying like anxiety or urine marking.

How should I store paroxetine?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. The tablets or liquid suspension are fine to be stored at room temperature, away from light. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give paroxetine to my pet?

Paroxetine is available as tablets or a syrup formulation and is given via the mouth. Tablets may be disguised in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, the medicine can be gently squirted into the side of your pet's mouth or the tablets can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

How long will my pet need to take paroxetine?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that you complete the course of treatment even if your pet seems to be well. If your pet is still unwell at the end of the course, then you should contact your vet as soon as possible.

What should I do if I run out of paroxetine?

Try to ensure that you have enough medication in advance of it running out. However, if you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next

scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

Contact your vet immediately if your pet receives an overdose of paroxetine.

Can my pet take paroxetine if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

What are the possible side effects of paroxetine for my pet?

Paroxetine can sometimes cause lethargy, decreased appetite and vomiting. In rare cases, trembling, restlessness and an increase in anxiety or demonstration of aggression can occur.

What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking paroxetine?

Seek advice from your vet who will be able to advise you about whether to continue giving the medicine or not.

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine they should contact their doctor **immediately**. This leaflet along with any remaining medication and its containers (even if they are empty) should be taken with them.

Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and further information on paroxetine.

The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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