



Medicine series

Practice details

# Pentoxifylline

- 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 is called pentoxifylline. It may have a trade name such as Trental®, but often will just be called pentoxifylline (or oxyntentifylline).

## What is pentoxifylline?

Pentoxifylline belongs to a group of medicines called xanthine derivatives. Pentoxifylline reduces the viscosity of blood (thins the blood) and increases the flexibility of the red blood cells. These effects improve the flow of blood through the narrowest blood vessels around the body (microcirculation). Pentoxifylline also has some anti-inflammatory effect.

## Why has my pet been prescribed pentoxifylline?

Pentoxifylline is used to help treat disorders of blood vessels such as vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels), where the lining of the blood vessels can become damaged and narrowed and restrict blood flow to surrounding tissues. Pentoxifylline can also be used to help treat certain types of allergic skin reactions such as contact dermatitis or atopic dermatitis, where the skin becomes itchy, red and sore. Pentoxifylline will improve microcirculation in the skin and promote the healing process.

## How should I store pentoxifylline?

This medicine does not require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give pentoxifylline tablets to my pet?

Try to disguise the tablets in a small quantity of strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, they can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

## How long will my pet need to take pentoxifylline?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If a dose is missed, 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 dog is given an overdose of pentoxifylline. There is limited information available about overdose of this drug in veterinary patients. However, in people an overdose can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness, an irregular heartbeat and low blood pressure (which may cause collapse).

## Can my pet take pentoxifylline 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 pentoxifylline for my pet?

Pentoxifylline can cause loss of appetite and vomiting in dogs. This may improve if the tablets are given with a small amount of food. If your pet shows *any* unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

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

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

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

If a person accidentally takes your pet's tablets, they should contact their doctor **immediately**. They should take this leaflet and any remaining tablets plus the container (even if it is empty) 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 will know about pentoxifylline.

## 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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