



Mar Vista Animal Medical Center

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PHENOBARBITAL

STRENGTH: 5 mg, 16.2 mg, 30 mg, 32.4 mg, 60 mg, 64.8 mg, 90 mg, 97.2 mg, & 100 mg TABLETS

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION: ORAL. May be given with or without food. Should be given at approximately the same time each day and is generally a life long medication.

ACTION OF MEDICATION: Barbiturate used as a first line medication in the treatment of seizure disorders.

MOST COMMON SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED: Sedation is common during initial therapy as the body adjusts to this medication. This is generally a temporary side effect. If it is persistent, the dose may need adjustment. Excessive thirst and appetite are also common side effects. Phenobarbital can alter liver enzyme and thyroid tests in dogs.

SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS REPORTED: Liver disease can result in a small number of patients. This could manifest as jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) or simply general illness.

STORAGE: Keep away from light and store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate.

IF YOU MISS A DOSE: If a dose is accidentally skipped, give the dose when it is remembered and give the subsequent dose at the appropriate time interval. If a breakthrough seizure occurs, an additional dose may be given at that time. Missing a dose can drop the blood level low enough to trigger a seizure.

OTHER INFORMATION: There is significant individual differences in how this medication is absorbed and metabolized such that monitoring blood levels of phenobarbital periodically is recommended. Periodic screening for evidence of liver disease is also recommended.

Phenobarbital is a controlled substance. Special paperwork is necessary for prescription.

A number of drug interactions have been described. See the link below for more details.

Abrupt discontinuation of this medication can trigger seizures..

For a more detailed presentation, visit:

<https://www.marvistavet.com/phenobarbital.pml>