

Amantadine was prescribed to your pet today. Click this link for more information:
URL:

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/doc/?id=4952766&pid=19239035a74a4-e87a-46f4-b005-677e78bd99b5.1735823940>

What is this medication used for:

Typical situations where amantadine might be used:

- Treatment of arthritis pain.
- Treatment of neurologic pain (disk disease, etc.)
- Treatment of pain associated with cancer, especially osteosarcoma.
- Treatment of chronic pain associated with declaw surgery complications. (Inadequate pain relief after surgery can create the wind-up phenomenon described above. The declaw surgery has received scrutiny for its potential to cause this phenomenon.)

Amantadine can be given with or without food. It is usually given once or twice daily. If a dose is accidentally skipped, do not double up on the next dose, but give it when you remember and time the next dose accordingly.

Side Effects:

Mild side effects include agitation, gas or diarrhea when first taking it. These should resolve with time. Amantadine also has what are called anticholinergic effects, which include dry mouth (which is seen as increased thirst), retaining urine, and an increased heart rate. These could be problematic when used with medications with similar effects or certain medical conditions.

Overdose in humans has resulted in heart problems, such as abnormal rhythm and high blood pressure, as well as seizures and respiratory distress.

Interactions with Other Drugs:

Trimethoprim-sulfa (an antibiotic), quinidine (a heart medication), and thiazide diuretics may decrease the excretion of amantadine, yielding higher blood levels and making amantadine stronger.

Other anticholinergic drugs, such as antihistamines, may enhance the anticholinergic effects of amantadine. These effects include dry mouth (possibly showing as more lip-licking or water consumption), difficulty urinating, and increased heart rate.

Other drugs that increase activity/general stimulation may exacerbate the agitation side effect sometimes seen with amantadine.

Selegiline, which is frequently used to treat senile cognitive dysfunction, might be an unexpected member of this category of drugs.

Concerns and Cautions:

Probably the biggest concern is that this medication is fairly new to veterinary use, and a full catalog of what to expect with its use is not yet available. Right now, amantadine is growing in popularity for pets and may prove to be an excellent complement to many pain relief regimens.

In human medicine, caution is recommended when considering its use in patients with kidney disease, seizure disorders, active psychoses, liver disease, or congestive heart failure. This means that side effects are more likely in these situations.

Amantadine has a narrow therapeutic range, which means accurate dosing is important to avoid toxicity. The use of oral liquid formulations allows for more accurate dosing.