

Clemastine

Tavist® and Antihist-1® are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Clemastine is used as an antihistamine primarily to stop itching.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Clemastine should be used with caution in patients with glaucoma or severe heart disease, as it may worsen these conditions.
- Clemastine should also be used with caution in animals that have problems urinating, have prostate enlargement, or have obstructions in the gastrointestinal tract.
- Working dogs (*e.g.*, guide dogs, search dogs, hunting dogs, sled dogs, rescue dogs) may become overly sedated and unable to perform their duties while on this drug.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The most common side effect, which may be desirable, is sleepiness and sedation. Most animals will become tolerant to this effect with time and the sleepiness will wear off.
- Dry mouth and inability to urinate are also possible side effects.
- Sometimes animals may become unusually excited while taking this drug.
- Animals receiving clemastine will have a reduced response to allergy testing. Clemastine should be stopped at least 4 days before allergy tests are started.

How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. If you have difficulty giving any doses, please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. Consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Dogs and cats usually receive this drug orally twice daily (every 12 hours) as a tablet or liquid.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Clemastine tablets or oral solution should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Keep clemastine at room temperature.