Diazoxide

Proglycem® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Diazoxide is primarily used in veterinary medicine to treat hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) caused by certain tumors (insulinomas) in ferrets.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Diazoxide should not be used in patients who have low blood sugars from causes other than tumors.
- Diazoxide is similar to certain thiazide diuretics such as Lasix® and should not be used in patients that are allergic to these kinds of diuretics.
- Diazoxide should be used with caution in patients who have heart failure or kidney disease because this drug can cause changes in salt and water balance.
- Diazoxide lowers blood pressure. It should not be used at the same time as other drugs that lower blood pressure.
- Diazoxide has caused problems during pregnancy such as birth defects and delayed labor. For this reason, diazoxide should not be used during pregnancy or in nursing mothers.
- 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 effects seen from diazoxide are lack of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea. These side effects can be reduced by giving the drug with food.
- Sometimes this drug can cause blood cell problems, cataracts and severe problems with water and salt balance.
- Higher doses of diazoxide can cause serious elevations in blood sugar which could be very dangerous for your pet.

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. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses 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.
- Ferrets: Ferrets usually receive this drug orally once to twice daily.
- Other species do not typically receive this drug.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Your pet’s blood sugar level needs to be monitored while on this drug. You will need to have your pet checked every 3-4 months for adverse effects on blood cells.