Neomycin Sulfate

Biosol® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Neomycin sulfate is used to kill most of the bacteria in the intestines prior to intestinal surgery. It also is used to kill bacteria in the intestines that can create ammonia and cause problems in the brain and bloodstream when the liver is not working properly.

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

- Neomycin should not be given to animals who are allergic to it or drugs like it.
- Cats seem to be more allergic to neomycin than other animals and some cats have had fatal allergic reactions after using neomycin products in the eye.
- Neomycin should not be given to animals with a blockage in their stomach or intestines.
- Neomycin and drugs like it can cause an irreversible deafness. This side effect can harm the performance of guide dogs or herding dogs. If you notice that your pet has a head tilt or appears to not be hearing well, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Neomycin and drugs like it can cause severe kidney damage. Neomycin should be used very carefully in very young or very old animals and should not be used at all in animals with kidney damage.
- Neomycin can cause the muscles to not work well and should not be used in animals with muscle disorders such as myasthenia gravis.
- Neomycin and drugs like it can kill all the helpful bacteria in the intestines of rabbits and result in death. Neomycin should not be used in rabbits.
- Neomycin can also cause all of these problems in unborn animals and should not be used in pregnant animals unless it will save the life of the mother.
- 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?

- Neomycin and drugs like it can cause deafness. If your animal shows any signs of a head tilt, loss of balance, or acts like it is having trouble hearing, you should contact your veterinarian immediately. Cats are more likely to have this side effect than other animals.
- Neomycin can cause kidney damage. If you notice that your animal is urinating more, or acts like it isn’t feeling well, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Neomycin can cause muscle weakness. If your animal appears to be stumbling or weak, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

How Should It Be Given?

- Neomycin is only given by mouth, in the rectum, or as a topical ointment because it causes more kidney damage if given by injection.
- 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.

Dogs and Cats: Dogs and cats usually receive neomycin as an oral liquid three to four times daily.

Horses: Adult horses may receive neomycin as a liquid three to four times daily. It should probably not be given to foals.

Rabbits: Neomycin should not be used in rabbits as it may kill them.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Neomycin should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Allergic reactions to neomycin can be fatal in cats. If your cat starts to act itchy, have swelling of the face, tongue or throat, or has difficulty breathing, you should get it to the nearest veterinary clinic immediately.