Phenoxybenzamine

Dibenzyline® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Phenoxybenzamine is a drug used to relax the bladder and urethra muscles during bladder and urethral spasms that are causing urine to leak out of the body.
- It is also used to reduce the blood pressure in animals suffering from a tumor known as pheochromocytoma.
- It has been used in horses to treat or prevent lameness (laminitis) and to treat diarrhea in horses.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Phenoxybenzamine should not be used in horses with signs of colic.
- Pets suffering from shock or very low blood pressure should not receive phenoxybenzamine.
- Phenoxybenzamine can cause a rapid heartbeat and should be used very carefully if at all in animals with heart disease.
- Phenoxybenzamine may cause failure to ejaculate and should be used with caution in males intended for breeding.
- Phenoxybenzamine should be used carefully in animals with kidney disease.
- 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?
- Phenoxybenzamine can cause a significant drop in blood pressure. If your animal appears to faint or is excessively tired and weak or dizzy, you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Phenoxybenzamine can cause stomach upset and vomiting. It may cause constipation in horses and may lead to colic.
- Phenoxybenzamine has also caused a stuffy or runny nose, pinpoint pupils of the eye, fast heart beat and failure to ejaculate.

How Should It Be Given?
- Phenoxybenzamine is not available as a commercial drug. You will need to contact a compounding pharmacist to obtain phenoxybenzamine. It may be compounded into capsules, chewable treats, or liquid dosage forms. It is usually given from once to three times daily.
- 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: Phenoxybenzamine is usually given orally once or twice daily with food.
Horses: Phenoxybenzamine is usually given by injection for lameness in horses. It can be given orally up to twice daily for diarrhea. When used in horses, it is considered a Class 3 drug by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI).

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Phenoxybenzamine should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- As phenoxybenzamine must be compounded by a pharmacist, you should call for refills a few days ahead of time to allow for preparation of the drug.