Trifluridine
Ophthalmic

Viroptic® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?
- Trifluridine is an antiviral medication that is used to treat viral infections of the eye. It is mostly used to treat cats with viral eye diseases such as herpes.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?
- Since herpes infection is triggered by stress, the frequent administration of this drug may cause worsening of the condition.
- Trifluridine should not be used in animals who are allergic to it or have had chemical intolerance to it.
- If your animal does not appear to be getting better, 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 medication may cause the eye to sting a bit when first put in the eye.
- Trifluridine may cause significant eye irritation to cats and may also delay healing of the clear part of the eye (cornea) if it is damaged.

How Should It Be Given?
- Eye drops may be used every 2-6 hours depending on the condition that your veterinarian is treating.
- If you are giving more than one medication, you should allow 5 minutes between medications to allow the medication to work and to not be washed out by the next medication.
- Medication should be applied in the lower eyelid sac (conjunctival sac) without touching the tip of the dropper or tube to the eye as this will contaminate the medication. Do not touch the dropper or tube tip with your fingers as this will also contaminate the medication.

- 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.
- You should always wash your hands after applying this medication to your pet's eyes.

Dogs and Cats: Trifluridine is not usually given to dogs, but is usually administered as a drop four to six times daily for cats. At the start of therapy, many veterinarians recommend using the drops every 2 hours for the first few days.

Horses: Horses do not usually receive this medication.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?
- Trifluridine drops should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container in the refrigerator away from all children and other household pets.
- Trifluridine may be very expensive.
- Your pet's eye should start to look better in 48 hours. If the eye looks the same or gets worse, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.