Dog Owner Information about RIMADYL® Chewable Tablets (carprofen)

Rimadyl® (pronounced rim-a-dyl) for Osteoarthritis and Post-Surgical Pain

Generic name: carprofen ("car-pro-fen")

This summary contains important information about Rimadyl. You should read this information before you start giving your dog Rimadyl and review it each time the prescription is refilled. It is not intended to take the place of instructions from your veterinarian.

Tell your veterinarian if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about Rimadyl.

What is Rimadyl?

Rimadyl is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is used to reduce pain and inflammation (inflammation due to osteoarthritis and pain following surgery in dogs). Rimadyl is a prescription drug for dogs. It is available as a capsule and chewable tablet and is given to dogs by mouth.

Osteoarthritis (OA) is a painful condition caused by "wear and tear" of cartilage and other parts of the joints that may result in the following changes or signs in your dog:

- Limping or lameness
- Increased effort or exercise, or difficulty in performing these activities
- stiffness or decreased movement of joints

To control surgical pain (e.g., for surgeries such as ear, eye or joint procedures or orthopedic repairs) your veterinarian may administer Rimadyl the day before and procedure and recommend that you give your dog treated for several days after going home.

What kind of results can I expect when my dog is on Rimadyl?

While Rimadyl is not a cure for osteoarthritis, it can relieve the pain and inflammation of OA and improve your dog's mobility.

- Response varies from dog to dog but can be quite dramatic.
- In most dogs, improvement can be seen in a matter of days.
- If Rimadyl is discontinued or not given as directed, your dog's pain and inflammation may come back.

Who should not take Rimadyl?

Your dog should not be given Rimadyl if:

- He has had an allergic reaction to carprofen, the active ingredient of Rimadyl.
- He has had an allergic reaction to aspirin or other NSAIDs (for example, dexibuprofen, etodolac, firocoxib, meloxicam, phenylbutazone or topiramate) such as a rash, facial swelling, itching or other skin reactions.

Rimadyl should be given to dogs only. Cats should not be given Rimadyl. Call your veterinarian immediately if your cat is given Rimadyl and all medicines out of reach of children. Call your veterinarian immediately if you accidentally take Rimadyl.

How to give Rimadyl to your dog.

Rimadyl should be given according to your veterinarian's instructions. Your veterinarian will tell you what amount of Rimadyl is right for your dog and for how long it should be given. Most dogs will take Rimadyl Chewable Tablets right off of your hand or the tablet can be placed in the mouth. Rimadyl can be given with or without food.

What to tell your veterinarian before giving Rimadyl:

Tell your veterinarian about:

- The signs of OA you have observed (for example, limping, stiffness).
- The importance of weight control and exercise in the management of OA.
- How well your dog is doing prior to Rimadyl’s prescribed.
- How often your dog may need to be examined by your veterinarian.
- The risks and benefits of using Rimadyl.

Tell your veterinarian if your dog has ever had the following medical problems:

- Excessive side effects from Rimadyl or other NSAIDs, such as aspirin
- Ulcerative proctitis (hemorrhage and/or diarrhea)
- Ulcer disease
- Kidney disease
- Seizure disorder (for example, von Willebrand’s disease)

Tell your veterinarian about:

- Any other medical problems or allergies that your dog may have.
- All medicines that you are giving your dog or plan to give your dog, including those you can get without a prescription.

Tell your veterinarian if your dog is:

- Pregnant, nursing or if you plan to breed your dog.

- What are the possible side effects that may occur in my dog during Rimadyl therapy?

Rimadyl, like other drugs, may cause some side effects. Serious but rare side effects have been reported in dogs taking NSAIDs, including Rimadyl. Serious side effects can occur with or without warning and in rare situations result in death.

The most common NSAID-related side effects generally occur in the stomach and include vomiting, loss of appetite, and diarrhea. Acute hemorrhage, shock, sloughing of the stomach lining, and perforation of the stomach or intestine have been reported. Excessive bleeding in the stomach or intestine can be fatal.

Less common side effects include:

- Decrease or increase in appetite
- Vomiting
- Change in bowel movement (such as diarrhea, or black, tarry or bloody stools)
- Change in behavior (such as decreased or increased activity level, incoordination, seizure or aggression)
- Rash
- Increased water consumption
- Change in drinking habits (frequency, amount consumed)
- Change in urination habits (frequency, color, smell)
- Change in skin (redness, scales, or scratching)
- Dysrhythmia
- Stiffness or decreased movement of joints
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Dark or tarry stools
- Increased water consumption
- Incontinence
- Increased thirst
- Decrease in appetite
- Incoordination
- Joint swelling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dark or tarry stools
- Increased water consumption
- Incontinence
- Increased thirst
- Decrease in appetite
- Incoordination
- Joint swelling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dark or tarry stools
- Increased water consumption
- Incontinence
- Increased thirst

It is important to stop therapy and contact your veterinarian immediately if you think your dog has a medical problem or side effect from Rimadyl therapy. If you have additional questions about possible side effects, talk to your veterinarian.

Can Rimadyl be given with other medicines?

Rimadyl should not be given with other NSAIDs (for example, aspirin, carprofen, dexibuprofen, firocoxib, meloxicam, topiramate) or steroids (for example, prednisone, dexamethasone, cortisone) or other drugs, such as other NSAIDs or corticosteroids, should be avoided because of the potential increase of adverse effects and decreased benefit from using Rimadyl. Consult your veterinarian for advice if your dog is taking any other medications.

Tell your veterinarian about all medicines you have given your dog in the past, and any medicines that you are planning to give with Rimadyl. This should include other medications that you can get without a prescription. Your veterinarian may want to check that all of your dog’s medications can be given together.

What do I do if my dog eats more than the prescribed amount of Rimadyl?

Contact your veterinarian immediately if your dog eats more than the prescribed amount of Rimadyl. If possible, have your pet vomit by placing an emetic bag over the mouth. Do not induce vomiting if your dog has had Rimadyl within the last hour.

How to store Rimadyl Chewable Tablets.

Keep Rimadyl Chewable Tablets in a secured storage area out of the reach of your dog and other pets. If your dog ingests more than the veterinarian prescribed, or if your other pets take Rimadyl Chewable Tablets, contact your veterinarian right away.

What else should I know about Rimadyl?

This sheet provides a summary of information about Rimadyl. If you have any questions or concerns about Rimadyl or other arthritis-related pain or postoperative pain, talk to your veterinarian.

As with all prescribed medicines, Rimadyl should only be given to the dog for which it was prescribed. It should be given to your dog only for the condition for which it was prescribed.

It is important to periodically discuss your dog’s response to Rimadyl at regular check-ups. Your veterinarian will best determine if your dog is responding as expected and if your dog should continue receiving Rimadyl.

To report a suspected adverse reaction call Zoetis at 1-888-933-9471.