

Chlorambucil

(klor-**am**-byoo-sil)

Key Information

- Used to treat cancer and conditions caused by an overactive immune system.
- Give with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset.
- Routine bloodwork is required while giving this medication. Do not miss these important follow-up visits.
- Possible side effects include vomiting, diarrhea, and changes in hair coat.
- This medication can cause changes in blood cell counts and can increase risk for infection. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any bleeding or bruising.
- Wear gloves and wash hands after handling this medication and any animal waste.
- Do not handle this medication or waste from treated animals if you are pregnant, nursing, or trying to conceive.

Note: The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

Description

- Anticancer (chemotherapy) agent and immunosuppressant
- Available as oral tablets

Other common names

Leukeran

Uses

This medication is not FDA-approved specifically for animals, but it is approved for use in humans. At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in other species (extra-label), such as for:

- Treatment of conditions caused by an overactive immune system in dogs and cats
- Treatment of cancer in dogs, cats, and other species

Before this medication is given

No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian:

- Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking
- Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past
- Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past
- The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing

Warnings for animals

Do **not** use in animals:

- That are allergic to this medication
- That are pregnant, nursing, or used for breeding

Use with **caution** in animals:

- With bone marrow problems
- That are at risk for developing bone marrow problems, such as animals with diabetes, animals of advanced age, or animals that have been receiving other chemotherapy or immunosuppressant drugs
- With an active infection
- With liver disease

Your animal should not participate in competitions and should avoid public spaces such as dog parks and daycare while on this medication.

- Exposure to other animals may increase your animal's risk for infections.
- It is dangerous for other animals to be exposed to your animal's waste.

Warnings for humans

This medication is a chemotherapy agent. Although it is helpful for treating cancer and for immune suppression, **this medication can be harmful to other animals and people**. The following precautions will help protect yourself and others:

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only handle this medication while wearing disposable gloves. Wash your hands after handling it. • Avoid letting treated animals lick human skin. • Because this medication is hazardous, your animal's waste will also be hazardous while they are taking it and for a few days after the last dose. This includes urine, stool, and vomit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear disposable gloves when handling any waste. - Seal waste and any items used to clean up waste in a plastic bag. Place into an additional plastic bag, seal, and throw away with the regular trash. - Avoid letting your animal urinate or defecate in public places. • If pregnant or nursing, do not handle this medication or any animal waste. • Do not split or crush tablets. • Wash items that have been soiled with your animal's urine, stool, or vomit separately from other laundry. |
| How do I give this medication? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give with or without food. Giving with food may help prevent stomach upset. <p><i>Give exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.</i></p> |
| Side effects | <p>Common – contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low energy level • Lack of appetite • Vomiting or diarrhea • Hair coat changes in dogs, such as shagginess or loss of luster. Hair loss may occur in breeds with continuously growing hair coats, such as poodles or terriers. Regrowth of shaved fur may also be delayed. <p>This medication commonly causes changes in blood cell counts. This can increase your animal's risk for infection or bleeding. Your veterinarian will monitor this with periodic bloodwork.</p> <p>Severe – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleeding or bruising • Difficulty breathing • Facial or eye twitching • Skin or mucus membrane irritation, blisters, or sores • Seizures |
| How will I know it's working? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can take up to several weeks for this medication to reach full effect. You should see a gradual improvement in your animal's signs as the medication becomes fully effective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - However, side effects can occur right away. • Your veterinarian will need to perform follow-up tests and physical examinations to determine how well your animal is tolerating the medication and evaluate how well it is working. <p><i>Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.</i></p> |
| How long will the medication effects last? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose. • It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney or liver function. |
| How long do I give it for? | <p>This medication can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. You may need to refill the prescription.</p> |
| Overdose | <p>Overdoses of this medication can be serious. Signs of overdose may include gastrointestinal upset, seizures, and severe decreases in blood cell counts. If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (consultation fee applies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet Poison Helpline: (855) 764-7661 <p><i>Have the product or label with you if possible.</i></p> |
| Missed dose | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your veterinarian for help if you miss a dose. |
| Storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store in the original container in the refrigerator. • Protect from light. • Keep out of reach of children and animals. |
| Disposal | <p>This is a hazardous medication and must be disposed of properly to prevent accidental exposure to other people, animals, or the environment. Talk to your veterinarian or pharmacist about proper disposal of unused or expired chemotherapy medication in your area.</p> <p><i>Do not save leftover medication or give it to others to use.</i></p> |
| Questions? | Talk to your veterinarian. |