

Prescription Label

Patient Name:

Species:

Drug Name & Strength:

Directions (amount to give how often & for how long):

Prescribing Veterinarian's Name & Contact Information:

Refills:

[Content to be provided by prescribing veterinarian]

Melarsomine

(mee-lar-soe-meen)

Description:

Arsenical antiparasitic

Other Names for this Medication:

Diroban®, Immiticide®

Common Dosage Forms:

50 mg powder vial to make 25 mg/mL injection

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- This medicine is labeled for use in dogs to treat heartworm disease.
- Most common side effects include pain and swelling at the injection site, coughing, labored breathing, gagging, low energy level, lack or loss of appetite (*anorexia*), excessive salivation, fever, and vomiting.
- **It is very important to follow your veterinarian's instructions about strictly resting your dog after treatment with this medicine. Any exercise could put your dog at risk for serious reactions to the treatment.**
- All dogs should be closely monitored during the entire treatment period.

How is this medication useful?

Melarsomine is used to treat heartworm disease in dogs. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this medicine for use in dogs only. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this medicine is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this medicine will work in your dog. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your dog, including the amount and time you give each.
- Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your dog may have now or has had in the past.
- If your dog has been treated for the same condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.

- If your dog is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this medicine.
- Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy) your dog has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medicine should start having effects within minutes; however, you may not be able to see the effects of this medication. Multiple medications may be used to treat heartworm disease, and it will likely take several months for treatment to be effective. The effects of this medication are moderate in duration, meaning they may last for a few days, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No medicine is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this medicine in your dog.

This medicine **SHOULD NOT** be used in dogs:

- That are allergic to melarsomine.
- With very severe heartworm disease.

This medicine should be used **WITH CAUTION** in dogs:

- With small body size (eg, toy breeds).
- That are very sick or frail.
- That are pregnant, nursing, or used for breeding.

If your dog has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Injection site pain, swelling, and tenderness
- Temporary reluctance to move
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Hypersalivation and panting

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Fever, weakness, depression/low energy level, loss of appetite
- Coughing/gagging
- Pain that is not reduced with medication
- Severe vomiting and/or salivation
- Trembling or shaking (tremors), unsteadiness or uncoordinated body movements (ataxia), restlessness
- Panting or shallow and labored breathing
- Dark or bloody urine
- Collapse

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

You will not be administering this medication.

How should this medication be given?

This medicine is only to be administered by a licensed veterinarian or veterinary professional under veterinarian supervision.

This medication will need to be repeated for treatment to be complete. Be sure you understand when your dog needs another injection.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

Contact your veterinarian if you need to miss a scheduled appointment for an injection.

How should I store this medication?

Because this medicine is given in the veterinary clinic, you will not need to store it.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

Because this medicine is only given in the veterinary clinic, you will not be handling it.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

Because this medicine is given in the veterinary clinic, you will not need to dispose of it.

What other information is important for this medication?

- **Dogs should be restricted from exercise as directed by your veterinarian.**
- Your veterinarian may prescribe additional medications as part of this treatment and to reduce side effects. It is important to give these additional medications as directed.
- Your dog will need to be monitored closely by your veterinarian during and after treatment. Do not miss these important recheck visits.
- Use of this medicine may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.