

# Clopidogrel

- Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again.
- Please ask your vet or veterinary nurse if you have any further questions.
- This medicine has been prescribed for your pet ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same.

The medicine you have been given for your dog or cat is called clopidogrel. It may have a trade name such as Plavix® or Grepid®, but often will just be called clopidogrel.

## What is clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel is a drug that stops platelets clumping and is used to prevent blood clots forming inside blood vessels. Clopidogrel and aspirin have similar effects on platelets but clopidogrel may cause fewer side effects.

## Why has my pet been prescribed clopidogrel?

Your vet may have prescribed clopidogrel because your pet has an increased risk of developing blood clots inside blood vessels. This problem most commonly develops with heart disease or when there is protein loss from the kidneys. Blood clots may or may not have already caused a problem in your pet at the time it is prescribed.

## How should I store clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel does not generally require special storage conditions. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

## How do I give clopidogrel tablets to my pet?

Clopidogrel can have a bitter taste. Try to disguise the tablets in a small quantity of a strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Alternatively, they can be placed carefully on the back of your pet's tongue and their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed. It is also possible to purchase gelatin capsules to put the tablet inside, which can help with pilling.

## How long will my pet need to take clopidogrel?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. It is important that you complete the course of clopidogrel even if your pet seems to be well. If your pet is still unwell at the end of the course, then you should **contact your vet as soon as possible.**

## What should I do if I run out of tablets?

Try not to run out of tablets. Make sure you order more clopidogrel from your vet if your supply is getting low. If you do run out, contact your own vet for further advice and restart the course as soon as possible.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

If a dose is missed, give the medication as soon as possible. However, it is best to skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your pet's next

scheduled dose. **DO NOT** give a double dose to make up for the missed dose and do not exceed the total stated dose in any one 24-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately** if your pet receives an overdose of clopidogrel. However, a single extra dose is unlikely to cause any significant problems.

## Can my pet take clopidogrel if I am already giving them other drugs?

Tell your vet if you are giving your pet any other medications, even if you think they already know. This includes herbal or off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop, pharmacy or health store.

## What are the possible side effects of clopidogrel for my pet?

Side effects are rare; however, when they do occur then they tend to involve bleeding problems. If you notice any bleeding from your pet's nose, gums or skin, or if their faeces become very dark or black, then you should contact your vet. Very rarely, skin reactions have been seen in people. If your pet shows any unusual symptoms whilst taking this medication, please contact your vet.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking clopidogrel?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's medicine, the person should be taken to the local hospital **immediately**. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

## Whom do I contact if I want to know more?

If you have any questions about this drug or concerns about your pet's health, contact your own vet. They will know your pet's medical history and will know about clopidogrel.

### The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. The medicine is not authorized by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), for use in dogs/cats/pets. Your vet can explain the 'prescribing cascade' in further detail to you and also explain why they are prescribing this drug for your pet. You will be asked to sign a consent form stating that you understand the reasons that the drug is being prescribed and its possible complications, before the treatment is issued.

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