

CLIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

Updated: **March 2020**

Tamsulosin

- **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 tamsulosin. It may have a trade name such as Flomaxtra® or Flomax®, but often will just be called tamsulosin.

What is tamsulosin?

Tamsulosin belongs to a group of medicines called alpha-blockers. These drugs can relax smooth muscle in many parts of the body. Tamsulosin is specific for the urinary tract smooth muscle.

Why has my pet been prescribed tamsulosin?

Normal urination needs simultaneous contraction of bladder muscles and relaxation of the urethra. Tamsulosin is used to relax the smooth muscle in the urinary system in such areas as the prostate, urethra and bladder neck and therefore aids urine flow during urination. Tamsulosin is used to treat spasms within the urethra and incoordination between the bladder and urethra (sometimes referred to as reflex dyssynergia). Tamsulosin may also help the passing of urine stones along the urinary tract (particularly in the two thin pipes called the ureter and urethra).

How should I store tamsulosin?

This medicine should be stored at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture. For safety, **all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.**

How do I give tamsulosin tablets to my pet?

Try to disguise them in a small quantity of 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. Ensure that plenty of fresh water is available.

How long will my pet need to take tamsulosin?

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients. Do not stop giving tamsulosin to your pet unless advised to do so by your vet.

What should I do if I run out of tablets?

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more tamsulosin from your vet if your supply is getting low. Missing a dose may cause signs of your pet's disease to return. 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 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 tamsulosin as higher doses increase the risk of side effects.

Can my pet take tamsulosin 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 know. This includes herbal and off-the-shelf remedies from a pet shop or pharmacy. Drugs such as certain anti-fungal medications (e.g. ketoconazole) may increase the strength of the effect of tamsulosin in humans, but it is not known if this is the case in dogs or cats.

What are the possible side effects of tamsulosin for my pet?

Tamsulosin may cause low blood pressure which may make your pet appear to be drowsy or even wobbly, especially when they are exercised. In people, tamsulosin may cause vomiting but this has not been reported in pets. 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 tamsulosin?

If your pet is unwell while receiving medication, you 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 tamsulosin.

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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