



Medicine series

Practice details

# Sucralfate

- 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 sucralfate. It may have a trade name such as Antepsin® or Carafate®, but often will just be called sucralfate.

## What is sucralfate?

Sucralfate belongs to a group of medicines that are called mucosal protectants. These drugs form a barrier over ulcers in the stomach and upper intestines to protect them from further erosion and to help stimulate ulcer healing.

## Why has my pet been prescribed sucralfate?

Sucralfate is used to help treat and prevent ulcers of the stomach, oesophagus and upper small intestine. These ulcers can develop in a variety of diseases such as intestinal disease, kidney failure or cancer. They can also be a side effect of a group of pain-relieving drugs called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or large doses of steroids.

## How should I store sucralfate?

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

## How do I give sucralfate to my pet?

Sucralfate is best given on its own at least 1 hour before any food or 2 hours before other medications. It can be gently squirted into the side of your pet's mouth or, in tablet form, placed on the back of their tongue and then their mouth held closed until the entire dose has been swallowed.

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

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients.

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

Try not to run out. Make sure you order more 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?

An overdose of sucralfate is unlikely to hurt your pet because very little of it is actually absorbed from the gut and most of it will pass out of the body in the faeces. Very occasionally, overdoses in people have been known to cause indigestion, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.

## Can my pet take sucralfate 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. Sucralfate should be given at least 2 hours before H2-receptor antagonists such as cimetidine, ranitidine and famotidine (also used to treat ulcers), phenytoin (used to control epilepsy) and tetracycline (a type of antibiotic). Do not give sucralfate to your pet if they are already taking fluoroquinolones (a group of antibiotics) or digoxin (used to treat heart conditions).

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

Side effects are very unlikely with sucralfate. However, in people it has been known to cause constipation. 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 sucralfate?

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 or suspension plus their container (even if it is empty) with you.

## 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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### **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 sucralfate.

