

DOCTORS FOSTER^{and}SMITH[®] PHARMACY

Patient Information Sheet

PO Box 100, Rhinelander, WI 54501
For questions or to consult with a pharmacist, call 1-800-447-3021

Levothyroxine - Equine

(Thyro-L, Levoxine Powder, Levo-Powder, Am-Vet T-4 Powder, Equine Thyroid Supplement, Thyroxine-L Powder)

Common Drug Name

Levothyroxine, L-thyroxine

Common Brand Names

Thyro-L, Levoxine Powder, Levo-Powder, Am-Vet T-4 Powder, Equine Thyroid Supplement, Thyroxine-L Powder

Generic products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Levothyroxine is a synthetic thyroid hormone. It usually needs to be given for the life of the horse when the horse is not producing enough thyroid hormone and to correct conditions associated with hypothyroidism.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Your veterinarian may monitor thyroid hormone levels in the blood every 2-4 weeks while adjusting the dose.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the horse for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

None if given at the correct dosage. If your horse has any abnormal signs, consult your veterinarian.

If your horse experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Differences exist between brands. Do not change brands if possible. If there is a need to change, your veterinarian may need to recheck thyroid hormone levels and adjust dose if indicated.

Not for use in horses hypersensitive (allergic) to levothyroxine or any components in the product.

Use with extreme caution in older or debilitated horses, or those with heart disease, high blood pressure, Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism), or diabetes.

Do not use in horses with hyperthyroidism, a condition in which the body produces too much thyroid hormone.

The safety of this medication in pregnant and lactating horses has not been determined.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with levothyroxine.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your horse is taking while your horse is receiving levothyroxine.

This medication increases the effects of epinephrine, norepinephrine, and warfarin.

It may decrease the effect of digoxin.

It may increase insulin needs in diabetic horses.

Estrogens may increase the need for thyroxine.

Levothyroxine can alter the results of many laboratory tests. Tell your veterinarian your horse is on levothyroxine before any tests are performed.

Withdrawal Times

Consult your veterinarian and event officials before using levothyroxine or any other medication in a performance horse. Not for use in horses intended for food.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

With chronic overdosing (taking a slightly higher dose over a long period of time), expect to see signs of hyperthyroidism such as an increase in drinking, urinating, eating, and activity; weight loss; seeking cool areas; increased heart rate; restlessness; and behavior changes. If you know or suspect your horse has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your horse, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and animals.