

Pimobendan

Pimobendan (brand name: Vetmedin®) has been added to your pet's therapy for congestive heart failure. Pimobendan is a medication with multiple actions on the heart and blood vessels. Pimobendan relaxes blood vessels, thereby decreasing blood pressure and decreasing the load on the heart. In addition, pimobendan increases the contractile function of the heart, allowing it to contract more vigorously. Pimobendan is indicated for therapy of valvular heart disease (mitral valve regurgitation) and heart muscle disease (dilated cardiomyopathy) in dogs when congestive heart failure is present, and has been shown to prolong the amount of time *before* congestive heart failure occurs in Dobermans with dilated cardiomyopathy.

Pimobendan is given orally, every 12 hours. Pimobendan can be given with food and with other medications. Pimobendan is well tolerated in dogs and has few adverse effects. If you notice any vomiting or diarrhea, consult your veterinarian. Pimobendan is often used (with angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and furosemide) as part of a "triple therapy" or "quadruple therapy" (with spironolactone) approach to treating heart failure to enhance quality of life and prolong survival.

The best way to treat problems due to cardiac medications is to prevent them or to "catch" the problem early. Please call your pet's consulting veterinarian or cardiologist if you have any questions or problems with your pet's cardiac therapy.