

Pimobendan

Pimobendan (brand name: Vetmedin®) has been added to your pet's therapy. Pimobendan may be prescribed for your pet prior to the onset of congestive heart failure or when congestive heart failure is present. 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. It has also been shown to prolong the length of time before congestive heart failure first develops while also extending overall survival in Dobermans and Irish wolfhounds with dilated cardiomyopathy and in small dogs with valvular heart disease.

Pimobendan is typically given orally, two times per day, morning and evening. It can be given with food and with other medications, is well tolerated in dogs and has very few adverse effects. If you notice any vomiting or diarrhea, consult your veterinarian. Pimobendan is often used in combination with other medication dogs with congestive heart failure (for example an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, furosemide and spironolactone) as part of a "quadruple therapy" approach to treating congestive 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.***