

# Toceranib

- 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 toceranib.

## What is toceranib?

Toceranib belongs to a group of medicines called the *tyrosine kinase inhibitors*, which are a type of *small molecule inhibitor*. They may be used to help manage cancer, or to prolong life by relieving symptoms of an incurable cancer.

## Why has my pet been prescribed toceranib?

Toceranib is used in veterinary patients to help to manage some tumours by killing off some cancer cells directly or inhibiting further cancer cell growth by reducing the cancer cell's ability to form blood vessels, which it needs to keep growing. It is most commonly used to manage mast cell tumours but may also be used in other types of cancer, for example anal sac adenocarcinomas, melanomas, thyroid carcinomas, mammary carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas and some others.

## How should I store toceranib?

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

## How do I give toceranib tablets to my pet?

**Disposable gloves should always be worn when handling and administering this drug. DO NOT split these tablets; only use whole ones.** Give directly to your pet (as directed by a veterinary professional) or disguise the tablets in small quantities of a strongly flavoured food that your pet likes. Tablets can be given with or without food. *Faeces, urine and saliva from dogs and cats taking toceranib may contain small traces of the drug. Therefore, do not allow your pet to lick your skin (including hands and face) and make sure they go to the toilet well away from other pets and from people. Wear disposable gloves when picking up faeces in bags. Dispose of faeces in domestic waste.* Usually toceranib is given orally either every second day or every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

Your vet will advise you on the length of time for which you will need to give this medicine. This may vary between patients and sometimes this medication needs to be given for a long time. Unused tablets and empty containers should be returned to your veterinary practice for safe disposal.

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

Try not to run out of tablets. 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 48-hour period.

## What should I do if my pet is accidentally given too many doses?

**Contact your vet immediately** if your pet is given an overdose of toceranib. **DO NOT** give any more toceranib tablets until you have spoken to your vet.

## Can my pet take toceranib 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 or pharmacy. Seek veterinary advice before administering toceranib if your pet is also receiving other chemotherapeutic agents and/or drugs that have the potential to cause gastrointestinal (tummy) problems such as steroids (e.g. prednisolone) or NSAIDs (e.g. meloxicam or piroxicam) until further information is available.

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

Toceranib can cause several different side effects listed below:

- Weight loss
- Gastrointestinal signs – poor appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, blood in the faeces or very dark faeces
- Muscle spasms/cramps and, rarely, itchy skin
- Lethargy and tiredness
- Low white cell count which can occasionally result in infections
- Anaemia, low blood platelets (blood clotting cells) or problems with bleeding
- Increased risk of blood clotting (thromboembolism)
- High blood pressure
- Increased liver enzymes
- Increased protein in the urine and low blood protein
- Very rarely seizures ('fits'), shock and death have occurred in animals receiving toceranib.

During treatment, your pet will require regular examinations, blood and urine tests to monitor their response to toceranib. If you are worried that your pet may be suffering from an adverse reaction or side effect, you must **contact your vet immediately**.

## What should I do if my pet is unwell while taking toceranib?

If your pet is unwell while receiving this medication, you should not give any further doses and should contact your vet as soon as possible for advice. After assessment, your pet may be allowed to restart toceranib after a short break and/or at a lower dose.

## What should I do if a person accidentally takes this drug?

If a person accidentally takes your pet's tablets, 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 toceranib.

## The Prescribing Cascade

This medicine is authorized for use in human patients and in pets for certain conditions. It is also used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. 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.