Hyoscyamine
(hye-oh-sye-a-teen)

**Description:** Anticholinergic

**Other Names for this Medication:** Levsin®, Anaspaz®, Levbid®, HyoMax®

**Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary:** None. **Human:** 0.125 mg & 0.25 mg tablets and orally disintegrating tablets; 0.375 mg sustained-release tablets. There are also oral liquids, oral sprays, and injectable products.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

**Key Information**

- May be given with or without food. If your animal vomits or acts sick after receiving the drug on an empty stomach, try giving the next dose with food or a small treat. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.
- Common side effects include dry mouth, dry eyes, constipation, trouble urinating, and faster heartbeat.
- Be sure animal has access to plenty of fresh, clean water at all times.
- Contact veterinarian immediately if seizures (convulsions), collapse (passing out), or large changes in behavior (eg, overly excited or low energy) occur.
- If using a sustained-release tablet, do not split, crush, or allow the animal to chew it.

**How is this medication useful?**

Hyoscyamine is a drug that slows down muscle contractions in the urinary bladder, stomach, and intestines. It can also decrease the amount of stomach acid produced and make the heart beat faster. Veterinarians may prescribe hyoscyamine to help reduce diarrhea or frequent loose stools in dogs with conditions like irritable bowel syndrome. Occasionally, it may be tried in dogs to treat some types of urinary incontinence or to treat slow heartbeats associated with some heart conditions. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in humans but it is not officially approved for use in animals in the US. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

**What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?**

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.
Other drugs can cause problems when taken with hyoscyamine so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you are giving your animal, as well as the amount and schedule of each.

Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.

If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn’t work.

If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.

Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication should help your animal feel better within 1 to 2 hours. Your animal’s clinical signs should improve after that time. The effects of this medication are short-lived, meaning they will stop working within 24 hours, although the benefits may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug SHOULD NOT be used in patients:

- That had an allergic or severe reaction to it or other drugs in the same class, (eg, glycopyrrolate, atropine).
- With intestinal or urinary tract blockages.
- With certain intestinal problems, including megacolon (abnormally large colon), severe inflammatory bowel disease, or intestinal bleeding.
- With some kinds of glaucoma (elevated pressure in the eye).

This drug should be used WITH CAUTION in patients:

- With kidney disease.
- With certain heart conditions.
- With a muscle condition called myasthenia gravis.
- That have constipation or trouble urinating.

If your animal matches any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the possible risks of using the drug versus the benefits it may have.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Hyoscyamine is not used often in veterinary medicine, so other side effects besides what is listed below could occur. Contact your veterinarian if you notice something out of the ordinary while your animal is taking this medicine.

Common but not serious side effects include:

- Faster heartbeat, dry mouth, dry eyes, trouble urinating (straining), constipation, or vomiting.

You don’t have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Behavior changes that range from low energy level or overly excited.
- Seizures (convulsions).
- Collapse (passing out).

Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs. Fortunately, these signs do not occur commonly and usually mean the dose is too high for your animal.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Overdoses of hyoscyamine can be serious. If you witness or suspect an overdose of hyoscyamine in your animal, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and Pet Poison HELPLINE (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It’s a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

©2019 PharmaVet, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Plumb’s® Veterinary Medication Guides have not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine.
Hyoscyamine can be given with or without food. If your animal vomits after giving this medication, try giving with some food to see if this helps. If vomiting continues, contact your veterinarian.

Liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.

If you are using a sustained-release tablet, do not split or crush it or allow the animal to chew it.

If you have difficulty getting your animal to take the medicine, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?
If you miss a dose when using the regular tablets, liquid, or oral disintegrating tablets, give it when you remember, but if it is within a few hours of the next scheduled dose, skip that dose and give it when it is regularly scheduled. If you are using a sustained-release tablet, 1) either wait to give it when it is regularly scheduled or 2) give it when you remember and wait the usual amount of time between doses before you give the next dose. Do not give an extra dose.

How should I store this medication?
Hyoscyamine tablets and oral liquids/drops should be stored in the original prescription bottle or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) that is tight, child- and light-resistant, at room temperature. Keep away from children and other animals.

If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the noted storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?
There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don’t use it all?
Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug “take-back” program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.

Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?
Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Please check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

Be sure to allow your animal access to plenty of fresh, clean water at all times.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.