



CARDIOLOGY:

Pimobendan / Vetmedin®

What is it?

Pimobendan is an inodilator, meaning it has positive inotropic effects on the heart, as well as vasodilatory effects on the peripheral vasculature. It is classified as a phosphodiesterase III (PDE III) inhibitor, meaning it inhibits the enzyme which breaks down cyclic AMP (cAMP). This leads to increased contractility of the heart muscle and vasodilation, both arterial and venous. Sensitization of the myofilaments to calcium is another proposed mechanism for the positive inotropic effects of pimobendan.

How is it used?

Pimobendan is currently labeled for any dog which is clinical for heart disease. This includes dogs with congestive heart failure secondary to both dilated cardiomyopathy and chronic valve disease. At this time, pimobendan is not labeled for use in dogs which are asymptomatic for heart disease (ie dogs with murmurs but who are absent of clinical signs). Pimobendan is also not labeled for use in cats, however this medication may be recommended by a cardiologist for use in a cat following complete evaluation (including a complete echocardiogram). This medication should not be used in cats or in dogs without evidence of congestive heart failure without consultation by a cardiologist.

What are the side effects?

Occasionally, dogs may experience vomiting, however this is very rare.

How do I get it?

Vetmedin® is available in 1.25 mg and 5 mg chewable tablets. Contact Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health to order a supply for your hospital.

MVS Cardiologists:

**Laura DeLellis, DVM,
DACVIM (Cardiology)**

**Sarah Achen, DVM,
DACVIM (Cardiology)**

Please feel free to call our **Southfield office** to speak with a cardiologist for further information on how this medication may be helpful in your practice. Our board certified cardiologists are available for consultations, at our Southfield hospital, Monday through Friday. Emergency phone consults and echocardiograms with a boarded cardiologist are also available after hours by calling MVS emergency service.

LOCATIONS

3412 E. Walton Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Ph. (248) 371-3713

29080 Inkster Rd.
Southfield, MI 48076
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