Plumb's Drug Handouts

Dorzolamide/Timolol, Ophthalmic

(*dor-**zoe**-la-mide/**tim**-oh-lol*)

Key Information

- Eye drop that helps lower pressure in the eye for treatment or prevention of glaucoma
- Wash your hands before applying the medication. To prevent contamination, do not touch the dropper tip with your hands or allow it to touch your animal's eye or any other surface.
- Common side effects include mild eye redness or irritation. This medication may sting during administration.
- If you are administering more than one eye medication, wait 5 minutes between each medication. Apply eye drops before eye ointments.

Note: The purpose of this information sheet is to answer commonly asked questions. It does not contain all available information for this medication and is not a substitute for medical advice provided by your veterinary healthcare team.

Description	• Eye drop containing 2 antiglaucoma agents • Works by decreasing the amount of fluid within the eye
Other common names	*Cosopt*
Uses	This medication is not FDA-approved specifically for animals, but it is approved for use in humans. At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in other species (extra-label), such as for: • Treatment of glaucoma in dogs, cats, and other species • Prevention of glaucoma in the unaffected eye of animals with glaucoma in one eye
Before this medication is given	No medication is 100% safe in all patients. Discuss with your veterinarian: • Any other medications or supplements your animal is taking • Any conditions or diseases your animal currently has or has had in the past • Any side effects your animal has had to medications in the past • The risks of using this medication if your animal is pregnant or nursing

Warnings for animals	• Do **not** use in animals:
	  - That are allergic to dorzolamide or sulfonamides
	  - That are allergic to timolol or other beta-blockers, such as atenolol or sotalol
	• Use with **caution** in animals with:
	  - Liver or kidney disease
	  - Heart failure, heart rhythm problems, or other heart conditions
	  - Asthma, bronchitis, or other respiratory disorders
	  - Diabetes mellitus
	  - Thyroid disease
	• Talk to your veterinarian if your animal will be having surgery or dental work performed. Temporarily stopping this medication before these visits may be recommended.
	• Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication.

Warnings for humans	Wash your hands after handling any medication.
How do I give this medication?	• Wash your hands before administration. • Do not touch the dropper tip with your hands. Do not allow the dropper tip to touch your animal's eye or any other surface. • Apply to the affected eye(s) as directed by your veterinarian.

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	• If you are administering more than one eye medication to your animal, wait 5 minutes between each medication. Apply eye drops before applying eye ointments. • Apply exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. *Always follow the instructions on the prescription label.*
Side effects	**Common** – contact your veterinarian if any of these signs are severe, continue to occur, or worsen over time: • Mild burning or stinging • Irritation or redness • Drowsiness **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs: • Cloudy eye appearance • Swelling near the eye • Tearing, squinting, or eye discharge • Pawing at the eye • Skin rash • Low energy level or collapse • Wheezing, rapid breathing, or coughing • Change in pupil size • Difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat. These may be signs of a severe allergic reaction.
How will I know it's working?	• This medication will begin working within 1 to 2 hours, but you will not be able to see the effects. • Your veterinarian will perform follow-up tests to see how well this medication is working.
How long will the medication effects last?	This medication will stop working within 24 hours of the last dose.
How long do I give it for?	This medication can be given for different lengths of time. Give it for as long as your veterinarian tells you. You may need to refill the prescription.
Overdose	Overdoses are unlikely when used topically, but side effects or toxicity can occur if the medication is eaten. If this happens, contact your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center for further advice (consultation fee applies): • **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**: (888) 426-4435 • **Pet Poison Helpline**: (855) 764-7661 *Have the product or label with you if possible.*
Missed dose	In most cases, if you miss a dose: • Apply it when you remember, then return to the regular dosing schedule. If it is close to the time for the next dose: • Skip the missed dose. • Apply the next dose at the next scheduled time. • Continue the regular dosing schedule. *If you are unsure, call your veterinary clinic. Do not double-up or give extra doses.*
Storage	• Store in the original container at room temperature. • Protect from light. • Protect from freezing. • Keep tightly capped when not in use to prevent contamination.

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	• Keep out of reach of children and animals.
Disposal	Do **not** flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. Options for disposing of unused or expired medications include: • Drug take-back sites: This is preferred whenever possible. To find a site near you, contact your local law enforcement or waste management authorities. • Home disposal: Mix the medication in with coffee grounds or kitty litter, seal in a plastic bag, and throw away in the trash. *Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.*
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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