Plumb's Drug Handouts

Mirtazapine, Transdermal

(*mir-**taz**-ah-peen*)

Key Information

- Transdermal mirtazapine is used to increase appetite in order to help manage weight loss in cats.
- Apply to the skin on the inner ear flap. Do not apply in the ear canal, eyes, or mouth.
- Wear gloves while handling this medication and wash hands with soap and water afterwards.
- Avoid contact with the treated area for 2 hours after application, as this medication is absorbed through the skin.
- This medication can cause application site reactions such as reddening of the skin, crusting or scabbing, and residue.
- Other common side effects include drowsiness, vocalization, drooling, vomiting, tremors, or shaking. Report any excessive drowsiness or vocalization to your veterinarian.

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	• Appetite stimulant • Available as an ointment that is applied to and absorbed through the skin (*transdermal*)
Other common names	*Miratax*
Uses	FDA-approved uses in animals: • Appetite stimulation to help manage weight loss in cats At the discretion of your veterinarian, this medication may be used in different species or for other reasons (extra-label use).
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. This medication can interact with many other drugs. • Any conditions or diseases your animal has now 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 cats: • That are allergic to it • Taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), such as selegiline. Tell your veterinarian about all medications used **within 2 weeks** of starting this medication. Use with **caution** in cats: • Younger than 6 months of age • Weighing less than 4.4 pounds • With kidney, heart, or liver disease • Low blood pressure • With diabetes • With glaucoma • With a blocked gastrointestinal or urinary tract • With low blood counts, such as low platelets or low white blood cells Certain medications are not allowed in some animal competitions. Check rules and regulations when your animal is taking a medication.
Warnings for humans	• Wear disposable gloves while handling this medication. Do not reuse gloves. • Wash hands with soap and water after handling.

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	• Avoid contact with the treated area for 2 hours after application to reduce risk of exposure to the medication.
	• If accidental exposure occurs:
	  - Wash exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water.
	  - In case of eye exposure, flush eyes with water.
	  - Contact your physician if you have any concerns.

How do I give this medication?	• To administer:
	  - Use a dry tissue or cloth to wipe any leftover drug residue from the ear.
	  - Squeeze the prescribed amount of ointment onto a gloved finger.
	  - Apply to the skin on the inner ear flap (pinna) and gently spread over the surface. Do not apply into the ear canal.
	  - Discard used gloves.
	• Alternate ears with each application.
	• Do not allow animals to lick or groom the treated area for 2 hours after application.
	• Do **NOT** give by mouth or administer into the eye.
	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: • Application site reactions such as redness, crusting, scabbing, or residue • Vocalization • Drooling • Vomiting or diarrhea • Mild tremors or shaking • Drowsiness • Agitation or restlessness **Severe** – stop the medication and contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice any of these signs: • Hyperactivity or hyperexcitability • Loss of coordination
How will I know it's working?	• Your animal should start showing an improvement in appetite within 1 to 2 days. *Contact your veterinary clinic if your animal's signs worsen or do not improve.*
How long will the medication effects last?	• This medication will stop working within 1 to 2 days after the last dose. • It may last longer if your animal has reduced kidney or liver function.
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. After stopping this medication, monitor your cat's appetite. Contact your veterinarian if: • Your cat is eating less than a quarter of the usual amount of food for several days. • Your cat does not eat at all for more than 2 days.
Overdose	If you witness or suspect an overdose, call your veterinarian or an animal-specific poison control center (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.*

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Missed dose	If you miss a dose: • Skip the missed dose. • Give 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. • Keep out of reach of children and animals.
Disposal	Discard tube within 30 days after first use. 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: Throw away in the regular trash. *Do **not** save leftover medication or give it to others to use.*
Questions?	Talk to your veterinarian.

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