



Melphalan

A chemotherapy medicine

Your vet has prescribed melphalan for your pet. It damages the genetic material of cancer cells so they can't multiply. The label on your pet's medicine always comes first, so keep this with it and ask us anything you're unsure about.

What is it used for?

- Treating some cancers, such as multiple myeloma.

How quickly does it work?

- The response is judged over weeks to months.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. Doses may be daily or in cycles, so follow the calendar.
- Give on an empty stomach unless your vet says otherwise. Keep tablets in the fridge.

What if I miss a dose?

- Give it when you remember, unless the next dose is nearly due. In that case skip the missed one.
- Never give two doses together to catch up.
- If your pet vomits soon after a dose, call us before giving another.

Possible side effects

- Reduced blood cell counts, which can increase infection risk.
- Vomiting, diarrhoea or reduced appetite.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Blood cell counts are checked regularly, especially in the first few weeks.
- Blood protein levels may be tracked to monitor myeloma.

Important things to know

- This is a chemotherapy-type medicine. Wear disposable gloves to handle it and wash your hands afterwards.
- Never split or crush tablets or open capsules. Anyone pregnant, breastfeeding or trying for a baby should not handle it.
- After each dose, wear gloves to clear up urine, faeces or vomit and double-bag it. Ask us how many days to do this for.
- Tell your vet about any other medicines, supplements or flea and worm treatments your pet has.
- Store safely out of reach of children and other pets. This medicine is for your pet only.

Your questions answered

- **Is chemotherapy hard on pets?** Most pets cope well and enjoy a good quality of life.
- **Why keep it in the fridge?** This keeps the tablets stable.

Call us straight away on 01843 808344 (24/7) if:

- Your pet has a fever, is very tired or seems unwell.
- Your pet has unusual bleeding, bruising, or keeps vomiting.
- You think your pet (or anyone else) has taken too much.

Mango's Top Tip

Good days count. Keep doing the gentle walks, the favourite games and the sofa cuddles.