



Hydroxycarbamide

A chemotherapy medicine

Your vet has prescribed hydroxycarbamide for your pet. It stops cells, especially fast-dividing blood cells, from making new DNA, 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 blood disorders, such as polycythaemia (too many red blood cells).
- Treating some types of cancer.

How quickly does it work?

- It works gradually over several weeks.

How do I give it?

- Give exactly as the label says. Doses may be daily or less often, so mark a calendar.
- Give with or without food.

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.
- In cats, rarely, anaemia.

Monitoring and check-ups

- Blood cell counts are usually checked every 1 to 2 weeks at first, then less often.

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

- **Will my pet feel ill?** Most pets feel well. Tell us about any tummy upset.
- **How long is treatment?** Often long term, with regular reviews.

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

Keep a simple diary of appetite, energy and any tummy troubles. It's hugely helpful at check-ups.