

Cimetidine

(Zitac (d), Cimetidine*, Tagamet*) POM-V, POM

- **Formulations**

Injectable: 100 mg/ml solution in 2 ml ampoule. Oral: 100 mg, 200 mg tablets; 40 mg/ml syrup.

- **Action**

Histamine (H₂) receptor antagonist, reducing histamine-induced gastric acid secretion. Rapidly absorbed with high bioavailability; undergoes hepatic metabolism and renal excretion. Plasma half-life is about 2 hours. It is not an antiemetic. Has weak anti-androgenic effects.

- **Use**

- Management of idiopathic, uraemic or drug-related erosive gastritis, gastric and duodenal ulcers, oesophagitis, and hypersecretory conditions secondary to gastrinoma, mast cell neoplasia or short bowel syndrome. Efficacy against NSAID-induced ulcers is controversial.

Rebound gastric acid secretion may be seen on cessation of cimetidine, so therapy should be tapered. Concomitant treatment with sucralfate may be helpful. If used i.v., should be administered over 30 minutes to prevent cardiac arrhythmias and hypotension. Dosage should be reduced for animals with renal impairment. Less effective at reducing gastric acidity than more modern H₂ blockers and proton pump inhibitors. Cimetidine has minimal prokinetic effects.

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- **DOSES**

- **Dogs:** 5 mg/kg p.o., i.v., i.m. q8h.
- **Cats:** 2.5–5 mg/kg p.o., i.v., i.m. q12h.