

## Clarithromycin

### (Klaricid\*) POM

- **Formulations**

Oral: 250 mg, 500 mg tablets; 125 mg/5 ml, 250 mg/5 ml suspensions; 250 mg granules sachet (to be dissolved in water). Injectable: 500 mg vial for reconstitution.

- **Action**

Derived from erythromycin and with greater activity. Time-dependent macrolide antibacterial that binds to the 50S ribosome, inhibiting peptide bond and therefore protein formation.

- **Use**

- Active against Gram-positive cocci (some *Staphylococcus* spp. resistant), Gram-positive bacilli, some Gram-negative bacilli (e.g. *Pasteurella*) and some spirochaetes (e.g. *Helicobacter*). Some strains of *Actinomyces*, *Nocardia*, *Chlamydia* and *Rickettsia* also inhibited. Most strains of Enterobacteriaceae (*Pseudomonas*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella*) are resistant.
- Highly lipid-soluble and useful against intracellular pathogens.
- Particularly useful in management of respiratory tract infections, mild to moderate skin and soft tissue infections, and non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections. For the latter, use in combination with fluoroquinolones and rifampin.

Alternative to penicillin in penicillin-allergic humans as it has a similar, although not identical, antibacterial spectrum. Activity is enhanced in an alkaline pH; administer on an empty stomach. There is limited information regarding use in animals. Use with caution in animals with hepatic dysfunction. Reduce dose in animals with renal impairment.

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- **DOSES**

Classified as **category C (Caution)** by the EMA. See Appendix for [Guidelines for responsible antibiotic use](#)

- **Dogs** 4–12 mg/kg i.v., p.o. q12h. Doses of 15–25 mg/kg p.o. total daily dose divided q8–12h are recommended in the treatment of leproid granuloma syndrome combined with rifampin 10–15 mg/kg p.o. q24h. These doses are empirical and are based on only a few reports.
- **Cats** 5–10 mg/kg i.v., p.o. q12h or 62.5 mg/cat p.o. These doses are empirical and are based on only a few reports. A variety of combination protocols have been used in the treatment of feline mycobacterial infections, e.g. combination of clarithromycin with a fluoroquinolone and either rifampin or clofazamine.