

## Metronidazole

(Metrobactin (c,d), Metrovis (c,d), Stomorgyl (c,d), Metronidazole\*) POM-V, POM

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Metronidazole](#)
- **Formulations**

Injectable: 5 mg/ml i.v. infusion. Oral: 100 mg, 250 mg, 500 mg, 750 mg tablets; 25 mg metronidazole + 46.9 mg spiramycin, 125 mg metronidazole + 234.4 mg spiramycin, 250 mg metronidazole + 469 mg spiramycin tablets (Stomorgyl 2, 10 and 20, respectively); 40 mg/ml oral solution.

- **Action**

Synthetic nitroimidazole with antibacterial and antiprotozoal activity. Its mechanism of action on protozoans is unknown but in bacteria it appears to be reduced spontaneously under anaerobic conditions to compounds that bind to DNA and cause cell death. Spiramycin is a macrolide antibacterial that inhibits bacterial protein synthesis.

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- **Use**
  - Treatment of anaerobic infections, including GI infections caused by *Clostridial* spp.
  - Management of hepatic encephalopathy.
  - No longer recommended to treat chronic enteropathy. Evidence of potential effects on the immune system (modulation of cell-mediated immune responses) in cats and dogs is limited while a negative impact on the canine microbiome has been documented.

Absorbed well from the GI tract and diffuses into many tissues including bone, CSF and abscesses. Spiramycin (a constituent of Stomorgyl) is active against Gram-positive aerobes including *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Bacillus* and *Actinomyces*. Metronidazole is frequently used in combination with penicillin or aminoglycoside antimicrobials to extend the spectrum of activity. There is a greater risk of adverse effects with rapid i.v. infusion or high total doses. It is no longer used in dogs and cats for the treatment of giardiasis as fenbendazole and others are preferred.

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- **DOSES**

Classified as category D (Prudence) by the EMA. See Appendix for [Guidelines for responsible antibiotic use](#)

- **Dogs, Cats**
  - Metronidazole:
    - Hepatic encephalopathy: 7.5 mg/kg p.o. q8–12h.
    - Antibiosis: 10–15 mg/kg p.o., s.c., slow i.v. infusion q12h. Label doses are 25 mg/kg q12h p.o. but doses >30 mg/kg per day may increase the risk of neurotoxicosis.

- Stomorgyl: 12.5 mg metronidazole + 23.4 mg spiramycin/kg p.o. (equivalent to 1 tablet/2 kg of Stomorgyl 2, 1 tablet/10 kg of Stomorgyl 10 and 1 tablet/20 kg of Stomorgyl 20) q24h for 5–10 days.