

Atenolol

Tenormin® is another name for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Atenolol is used to treat heart disease in cats and dogs. Atenolol works by slowing the heart and making it work more efficiently. It has also been used to lower blood pressure in dogs and cats.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Animals with heart block or very slow heart rates may have problems taking this drug.
- Atenolol may also have some effects on the lungs. If your pet has asthma or other lung disease, please talk to your veterinarian before using this drug.
- If your animal has any of the above conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks of using the medication versus the benefits that it might have.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- This drug may cause your pet to become very tired. It may also slow the heartbeat too much if the dose is too high for your pet.
- Some dogs experience diarrhea while on this drug.
- If your pet has been on atenolol for a long time, you should not stop giving the drug suddenly or your pet may experience worse problems.

How Should It Be Given?

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.

- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Atenolol is usually given orally once or twice daily to dogs and once daily to cats.
- **Horses:** Atenolol is not typically given to horses and is considered a Class 3 drug by the Association of Racing Commissioners International.
- **Ferrets:** Atenolol has been given orally to ferrets once daily for heart disease.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Atenolol should be stored in a tight, light resistant, child proof container away from all children and other household pets. If your pharmacist has compounded a special formulation for you, please observe the noted expiration dates for the product.
- This medication will probably need to be given for the rest of your animal's life. Please take your pet back to the veterinarian as instructed for very important follow up visits.