

Cefovecin

(sef-o-vee-sin)

Description:

Cephalosporin Antibiotic

Other Names for this Medication: Convenia®

Common Dosage Forms:

Veterinary: 800 mg powder to make an 80 mg/mL injection. **Human:** None.

Antimicrobial Classification:

Critically Important

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication and has not been reviewed by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. This sheet can help answer commonly asked questions but is not a substitute for medical advice. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- This drug must be injected (ie, as a shot); it does not work when given by mouth.
- Antibiotic effect is long lasting after a single injection in dogs and cats.
- Store in refrigerator; throw out any unused liquid after 56 days.
- Do not use in small mammals (eg, guinea pigs, rabbits, hamsters).

How is this medication useful?

In dogs and cats, cefovecin is used to treat infections of the skin and respiratory and urinary tracts. Because it has long lasting activity after a single injection, it is useful for animals that do not tolerate medications given by mouth. The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in dogs and cats. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- Other drugs can interact with this medication, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

How long until I will know if this medication is working, and how long will the effects of this medication last?

This medication should start having effects within 1 to 2 hours; however, you may not see the effects of this medication outwardly. Your animal should begin feeling better within 1 to 2 days. The effects of this medication are long-lived, meaning they may last for multiple (ie, 4 to 6) weeks, although they may be prolonged if your animal has decreased kidney and/or liver function.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- That are allergic to it or drugs like it (eg, other cephalosporins).

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in:

- Animals that have kidney disease.
- In small mammals (eg, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits).

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Cefovecin is usually well tolerated in dogs and cats.

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- Vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of appetite.
- Stinging at the injection (shot) site.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- Complete loss of appetite in cats can sometimes be a sign of severe liver problems. If your cat completely stops eating, contact your veterinarian.
- Fever, rashes, trouble breathing, and pale gums may indicate an allergy to the drug.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

By Injection:

- Cefovecin is usually given by the veterinarian in the veterinarian's office, but occasionally will have owners inject this medication at home.
- Your veterinarian or pharmacist will give you all of the items (eg, needles, syringes) you need to give the injections (shots). If the medicine needs to be mixed before you give it, mix it exactly as your veterinarian or pharmacist tells you.
- Use a new needle and syringe each time you give an injection (shot) or mix a vial. Do not reuse needles and syringes.

It is important to equalize the pressure in a vial of cefovecin when preparing the antibiotic solution. Your pharmacist or veterinarian

- will show you how to add diluent in a way that does not cause the liquid to spray back out of the vial.
- After adding the diluent liquid, shake the vial until the liquid mixture is clear.
- Because this drug must be injected, be sure you understand the proper dosage, location(s), and method for giving the shots.
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Do not store cefovecin solutions at room temperature. They must be kept in the refrigerator.

If you have difficulty giving your animal the injection (shot), contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.

This medication can be given for various lengths of time. Be sure you understand how long your veterinarian wants you to continue giving this medication. Prescription refills may be necessary before the therapy will be complete. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

- If you are giving these shots at home, place used needles and syringes in a sharps disposal container immediately after they have been used. Your veterinarian or pharmacist will help you obtain these containers. Be careful not to accidentally stick yourself; do not attempt to disconnect the needle from the syringe. Keep containers out of reach of children and pets. Once container is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full, dispose of it according to your community guidelines. Check with your local trash removal services or health department (listed online and in the city or county government [blue] pages in your phone book) to see which disposal methods are available in your area.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a dose, inject it when you remember and then wait the amount of time between doses recommended by your veterinarian before giving another dose. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- Store cefovecin in the refrigerator; keep protected from light. After each use, return the unused portion back to the refrigerator in the original carton. Color of the liquid may vary from clear to amber when the diluent is added and may darken over time, but if stored as recommended, liquid color does not adversely affect potency. Throw out any remaining liquid 56 days after mixing.
- If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- Do not save leftover medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.