

# Walker Veterinary Hospital

*Melanie S. Walker, D.V.M.*

38111 US 290

Waller, TX 77484

Telephone (936)931-2244

[www.walkervethospital.com](http://www.walkervethospital.com)



## CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE

### ***Why has my veterinarian prescribed this medicine?***

Cyclophosphamide is classified as an alkylating agent and is used for cancer therapy and to suppress the immune system. Cyclophosphamide may also be used for other conditions as determined by your veterinarian.

### ***How do I give this medication?***

- Give this medication to your pet as directed by your veterinarian. **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.**
- If the medicine is a liquid, measure the dose with reasonable care.
- Try to give this medication at about the same time each day.
- **DO NOT** give the pet more medicine than directed and do not give more often than directed.
- **DO NOT** stop giving this medication to your pet unless directed by your veterinarian. Call your veterinarian ahead of time if your pet needs a refill.
- Try not to miss giving any doses.
- The person administering the drug should wash their hands after handling the medication.



### ***What if I miss giving a dose?***

Give the dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose, and continue with the regular schedule. Do not give the pet two doses at once.

### ***How do I store this medicine?***

- Keep this medicine out of reach of children.
- Store this medicine in a cool, dry place at room temperature. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in damp places. The medicine may break down if exposed to heat or moisture.
- Store medication below 30° C (86° F) but do not freeze.

### ***What are the potential side effects?***

- Your pet may experience the following side effects: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and hair loss.
- If your pet experiences any abnormal bleeding or bruising, contact your veterinarian immediately.

- Since cyclophosphamide can increase your pet's chance of getting an infection, try to keep your pet away from stray animals or animals which may have an infection.
- Other side effects may occur. If you notice anything unusual, contact your veterinarian.

***Are there any possible drug interactions?***

- Make sure to tell your veterinarian what other medication you are giving to your pet.
- Quite often your veterinarian may prescribe two different medications, and a drug interaction may be anticipated. In this case, your veterinarian may vary the dose and/or monitor your pet more closely.
- The following drugs can potentially interact with cyclophosphamide: phenobarbital, allopurinol, thiazide diuretics, digoxin, succinylcholine, and cardiotoxic drugs (e.g. doxorubicin).
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet experiences any unusual reactions when different medications are given together.

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*This client information sheet is based on material written by Rita Ozolins, B.Sc., Phm.  
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