

Naltrexone:

SCHEDULING STATUS: S4

CURRENTLY COMPOUNDED FORMULATIONS:

Active ingredient(s)	Injectable	Oral equine paste	Oral carnivore paste	Orals for exotics	Oral solution/suspension	Topical treatment	Shampoo	Capsules/Tablets	Oral powder
Naltrexone hydrochloride	✓								

REGISTERED PRODUCT/ TRADE NAME: Trexonil®

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION: Opiate antagonist

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION: Naltrexone competitively binds to opiate receptors in the CNS, thereby preventing both endogenous opiates and exogenously administered opiate agonists or agonist/antagonists from occupying the site. Naltrexone may be more effective in blocking the euphoric aspects of the opiates and less effective at blocking the respiratory depressive or miotic effects.^[1]

INDICATIONS: Reversal of opioids. Naltrexone is an important antagonist and should be used in circumstances when complete opioid reversal is necessary, such as the reversal in free-ranging prey species. Always give to white rhino when released into the field.^[2]

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

WILDLIFE:

40 mg naltrexone for each mg of carfentanil used.^[2]

20 mg naltrexone for each mg of etorphine used.^[2]

10 mg naltrexone for each mg of thiafentanil used.^[2]

DOGS:

As adjunctive therapy in behavior disorders:

- For tail chasing or excessive licking: First give 0.01 mg/kg SC of naloxone to determine if narcotic antagonists may be effective, if so give naltrexone PO at 1 – 2 mg/kg oid. Long-term therapy may be required. (Crowill-Davis 1992)^[1]
- 2 – 5 mg/kg, PO oid (Line 2000)^[1]
- 1 – 2.2 mg/kg, PO bid-tid (Crowell-Davis 1999)^[1]

For the adjunctive treatment of acral pruritic dermatitis: 2.2 mg/kg, PO oid for one-month trial. Some dogs exhibit drowsiness and minor changes in behavior. 50 – 60% of patients have benefitted. Expense is of concern. (Rosychuck 1991)^[1]

CATS:

As adjunctive therapy in behavior disorders: 25 – 50 mg/cat PO q24h. Note: has a bitter taste (Crowell-Davis 1999)^[1]

As described in literature, naltrexone can be used in cases of emergency for reversal of acute opioid intoxication in humans.

WARNINGS/ PRECAUTIONS/ CONTRA-INDICATIONS:

- At usual doses, naltrexone is relatively free of adverse effects in non-opioid dependent patients. Some human patients have developed abdominal cramping, nausea and vomiting, nervousness, insomnia, joint or muscle pain, skin rashes, and pruritus. Dose-dependent hepatotoxicity has been described in humans on occasion.^[1]
- Naltrexone will block the analgesic, antidiarrheal, and antitussive effects of opiate agonist or agonist/antagonist agents.^[1]

REFERENCES:

1. Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook, Fifth edition by Donald C. Plumb
2. Chemical and Physical Restraint of Wild Animals; Second Edition; Edited by Michael D. Kock, and Richard Burroughs