

# DEXMEDETOMIDINE

## BRAND NAMES: SILEO, DEXDOMITOR

AVAILABLE AS:  
ORAL GEL,  
INJECTABLE

### BACKGROUND

Noise aversion can be a serious problem for a pet dog. Not only is the associated panic unpleasant but the frightened animal can become destructive or even dangerous. It is not unusual for a terrified dog to break down doors or even windows in an escape attempt. The animal may bite or potentially escape from a yard or pen and become lost. The pet is experiencing a panic disorder and likely could do with pharmacological assistance in times when loud noises are expected.

Past remedies have involved acepromazine, which induces drowsiness and impairs mobility without a lot of anxiety reduction. Benzodiazepine tranquilizers, such as alprazolam, have been felt to be superior for relief of panic. In 2016, an oral form of dexmedetomidine became available for use in dogs with noise aversion.

Dexdomitor has been widely used in veterinary anesthesia for decades because it is effective, reversible, and provides good analgesia. The oral gel released for noise phobia uses a low dose of this medication so as to relieve anxiety without inducing sedation. It has applications for other types of anxiety or fear beyond noise phobia and could be used for anxiety associated with travel, visits to the vet, large numbers of visiting guests, or other similar stressful events.

### HOW THIS MEDICATION IS USED

Dexmedetomidine oral gel is administered in the cheek pouch of the dog, rather than into the mouth. The person administering the medication should wear gloves when handling the syringe and medication is ideally given 30-60 minutes before the noise or stressful event is expected. Additional doses may be given if necessary but it is important to wait at least 2 hours between doses. Up to 5 doses can be given per noise event.

The syringe applicator comes with a dial up dosing handle. It is important to know where to dial your pet's dose on the handle. It is equally important to be sure the syringe dial is locked so that when you put the syringe in your dog's mouth and push the plunger, only the correct amount is delivered. If the dial is not locked, your dog can be overdosed so be sure you understand how the syringe correctly.

For Video Assistance: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8Gm6wOxAe4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8Gm6wOxAe4)

If your dog's dose is 6 dots or more, it is best to split the dose so that half is given in the right cheek pouch and half is given in the left cheek pouch.

Store the syringe inside the box as the product is light sensitive.

If dexmedetomidine is delivered in the mouth and not the cheek pouch, it will not absorb properly and will not be effective. If this happens, wait two hours before re-dosing.

Do not feed for 15 minutes after administration.

## **INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER DRUGS**

Use of this product with other tranquilizers or anti-anxiety medications can increase potential for side effects. Be sure your veterinarian is aware of all other medications your pet uses. Blood pressure can drop with the use of this medication and while this is generally not of significance, it might be should the patient be on other medications that lower blood pressure (sildenafil, telmisartan, amlodipine, ace inhibitors for examples).

## **SIDE EFFECTS**

The dog's gums may appear pale shortly after administration of dexmedetomidine gel. This is not of significance and can be considered a normal reaction if it occurs.

Dexmedetomidine has potential to drop blood pressure and drop heart rate. Neither of these effects should be significant in normal patients.

Dexmedetomidine is an anesthetic drug but should not cause sedation at these doses. That said, sedation might be seen in a sensitive animal.

## **CONCERNS AND CAUTIONS**

Dexmedetomidine gel is for healthy dogs. It should not be used in dogs with heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory compromise, exhaustion, or heat stress.

The dosing syringe is good for 4 weeks after it is opened and may be used again in this time frame.

Dogs with more deep-seated or long term anxiety (rather than just fear of loud-noises that occur only periodically) will need a different treatment plan. Dexmedetomidine is for dogs who suffer from noise aversion but not from general anxiety states.

Safety of this product has not been evaluated in puppies under 16 weeks of age nor in pregnant or nursing female dogs.

The manufacturer recommends that pregnant women not handle this product.

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## **Mar Vista Animal Medical Center**

3850 Grand View Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066 • (310) 391-6741 • Fax: (310) 391-6744

Additional drug and general pet care information can be found on our world wide web site:

<http://www.marvistavet.com>