

Afoxolaner (Nexgard)
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(For veterinary information only)

WARNING

The size of the tablet/medication is NOT an indication of a proper dose. Never administer any drug without your veterinarian's input. Serious side effects or death can occur if you use drugs on your pet without your veterinarian's advice.

Brand Name: Nexgard

Available in 11.3 mg, 28.3 mg, 68 mg, 136 mg chewable tablets

Background

Historically, flea control was a labor-intensive process involving sprays, dips, foggers, yard treatments, powders and more. As technology progressed, products became safer and more convenient culminating in a whole “next generation” of products starting with Program® in 1995, and Advantage® and Frontline® not long after. For the first time, flea control could be performed once a month in the simple form of a chewable tablet or smear of topical oil. These products represented a revolution in flea control but the revolution did not stop there. Today parasite control has proliferated into dozens of products controlling different combinations of organisms and with many administration options.

Afoxolaner came out in 2014 as a beef-flavored chewable prescription medication called Nexgard®. A related product called Nexgard Spectra® is available in Europe. Nexgard Spectra combines afoxolaner and milbemycin, an anti-worm medicine, so as to provide nearly total parasite protection in one product but this version of Nexgard is not presently available in the U.S.

A valid patient-doctor relationship is required to obtain a prescription for afoxolaner. Nexgard kills fleas and ticks only and has no activity against intestinal worms or heartworm. There are four ticks of concern in the U.S. (see our [tick product comparison chart](#) for more details) and afoxolaner will kill all of them. As for fleas, afoxolaner kills fleas before they are able to lay eggs so that a flea sterilizer is not necessary in the tablet.

How this Medication is Used

Afoxolaner lasts one month and can be used in puppies/dogs 8 weeks of age and older so long as they weigh at least 4 lbs. It should not be used in cats.

Afoxolaner can be given either with or without food.

Side Effects

The possible side effects reported include nausea/vomiting (4 percent of dogs), diarrhea (3 percent of dogs) dandruffy coat (3 percent of dogs), lethargy (less than 2 percent of dogs) and appetite loss (less than 2 percent of dogs). Most

dogs that exhibited one of these side effects only exhibited them after the first dose and not with subsequent doses.

If a dog vomits within two hours of administration of a Nexgard tablet, a new tablet should be given. If vomiting occurs after two hours, re-dosing is not necessary.

Interactions with Other Drugs

There are no known drug interactions with afoxolaner.

Concerns and Cautions

Afoxolaner has not been evaluated in pregnant or nursing animals so it is recommended not to use afoxolaner in this situation.

Afoxolaner kills fleas by causing an over-stimulation of the insect nervous system. This leads fleas to be extra active just before they die; this increase in activity can lead the fleas to be more visible.

The manufacturer recommends caution in dogs with known [seizure disorders](#). Muscle tremors and seizures can occur in animals with no prior history of such as well.

If a monthly dose is skipped, fleas and ticks will be able to complete their life cycle freely. Do not double up on the next dose, though; simply, give the afoxalaner when you remember to do so.

Store at room temperature in the sealed container provided by manufacturer.

See more information on [afoxolaner](#).

It is our policy not to give dosing information over the Internet.

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