

Ear Mite Medication Ingredients

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Generic Name

Rotenone, Pyrethrins

Brand Names

Rotenone: Ear Mitecide, Ear Mite Lotion, Ear Mitecide

Pyrethrins: Cerumite, Mita-Clear, Drs. Foster and Smith Mitecide, Nolvamite

Type of Drug

Insecticide

Form and Storage

Drops and lotion

Store at room temperature.

Indications for Use

Treatment of ear mites in dogs, cats, and rabbits.

General Information

FDA approved for use in treating ear mites in dogs and cats. Rotenone is also approved for use in rabbits. Available by prescription and over the counter. Ear mites are passed from one infested animal to another through close enough contact that the mite has time to crawl from one to the other such as from a mother dog or cat and to her offspring. Typically, ears infested with ear mites have a dark waxy, flaky debris in them, similar to coffee grounds. Both ears are usually affected. The mites can be easily seen under a microscope at low power. Once the mites are gone, they will not recur unless the pet is exposed to another animal with them again (such as a new puppy or kitten in the house).

Usual Dose and Administration

It is essential to clean ears before applying the medication. Apply amount of drops or lotion according to label. Massage in well and wipe excess from the flap and inside of the ear. Repeat every 2-3 days for 4-8 weeks. Note that this may be a longer period of treatment than that described on the label, but it has been found that to treat less often or for a shorter time period, the mites may not be eliminated. Other medications such as ivermectin injections have been shown to treat ear mites and have frequently been used, although ivermectin has not been FDA-approved for this use. Contact your veterinarian if you have difficulty treating your pet or you have a large number of pets to treat.

Side Effects

Unlikely. May see skin irritation. Cats may drool when ears are cleaned.

Contraindications/Warnings

Not for use in patients hypersensitive (allergic) to the drug.

All types may not be for use in patients less than 7 weeks of age. Read the labels. Contact your veterinarian before treating young animals.

Need to treat all the dogs, cats, and rabbits in the house at the same time, or they will reinfest each other again.

If poor response to treatment or the symptoms recur, it may be an ear infection and not mites or an ear infection in addition to mites. Contact your veterinarian.

May be toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Dispose of container properly.

If medication comes in contact with pet's eyes, flush eyes thoroughly and contact your veterinarian.

Drug or Food Interactions

Unlikely to have drug or food interactions.

If using a topical ear antibiotic also, separate treatments by several hours to allow the first medication time to work before it is removed during application of second product.

Overdose/Toxicity

Unlikely with the ear drops or lotion.

Summary

Ear mite medications will treat ear mite infestations; they will NOT have an affect on bacterial or yeast infections. A proper diagnosis through microscopic examination of the debris in the ear should be obtained prior to treatment. All affected animals must be treated and the length of treatment should be long enough to kill all mites, or the infestation will recur.