

Loperamide

(DiaFix*, Dioraleze*, Entrocalm*, Imodium*, Norimode*) POM, P, GSL

Formulations

Oral: 2 mg capsules; 2 mg tablets; 0.2 mg/ml syrup.

Action

Opioid agonist that alters GI motility by acting on receptors in the myenteric plexus. Normally has no central action.

Use

- Management of non-specific acute and chronic diarrhoea, and irritable bowel syndrome.
- Use with care in cats.

DOSES

- **Dogs, Cats:** 0.04–0.2 mg/kg p.o. q8–12h.

Warnings

Adverse reactions

Constipation will occur in some cases. Excitability may be seen in cats.

Contraindications

Intestinal obstruction. Do not use in dogs likely to be ivermectin-sensitive, e.g. collies. The mutation of the multiple drug resistance (*ABCB1*) gene in these dogs allows loperamide (a P-glycoprotein substrate) to penetrate the CNS and cause profound sedation.

Drug interactions

Avoid concurrent use with other drugs that reduce GI motility.

Safety and handling

Normal precautions should be observed.