



# EAST COAST VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY

## Torsemide

### **Drug Classification & Information**

Torsemide is a loop diuretic ('water pill') and is like furosemide but has ten times the potency. It causes loss of electrolytes and water from the body through the kidneys. Ensure animals are eating and drinking normally while taking this medication. Has the potential to result in more significant renal and electrolyte effects when compared to furosemide.

### **Indications for Use**

Congestive heart failure treatment in animals. May be considered in a patient refractory to furosemide therapy as it is considered more potent. Also a consideration in patients when three times daily furosemide treatment is not possible due to scheduling.

### **Potential Drug Interactions**

May increase risk for digoxin toxicity by causing loss of potassium. May result in hypotension when given with vasodilators such as ACE inhibitors. NSAIDs may reduce diuretic effect. Combination with NSAIDs may increase risk for renal dysfunction.

### **Drug Side Effects**

Torsemide can lead to significant dehydration and electrolyte loss and may lead to renal dysfunction (azotemia). Regular access to fresh drinking water is essential when receiving torsemide (do not limit water intake). Torsemide will increase both thirst and urination. May result in some GI upset (reduced appetite, vomiting) and weakness. It should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing renal disease.

### **Therapeutic Monitoring**

Renal values (BUN, creatinine) and electrolytes should be monitored regularly when receiving this medication (1-2 weeks after any dose adjustment, then every 3-4 months). Periodic blood pressure measurement when receiving high doses in conjunction with vasodilators.

### **Dosage Forms**

Human: 5, 10, 20 mg tablets

