

# Bismuth Subsalicylate (Pepto Bismol)

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

Generic Name  
Bismuth Subsalicylate

Brand Name  
Bismukote, Corrective Suspension, Pepto-Bismol

Type of Drug  
Antidiarrheal

Form and Storage  
Oral suspension, paste, chewable tablet, and caplet  
Protect from light. Store at room temperature.

Indications for Use  
Treatment of diarrhea, vomiting, and indigestion in dogs.

General Information  
Some formulations are FDA approved for use in dogs and cats. Available by prescription and over the counter. Use with extreme caution, and only under veterinary supervision in cats as it contains aspirin which may be fatal to cats. Used to treat vomiting and diarrhea caused by dietary indiscretion as it soothes the stomach and intestinal lining. If the vomiting and/or diarrhea persists for more than 48 hours; the pet has a fever, is depressed or shows abdominal pain; or the pet does not continue to be active and alert, contact your veterinarian. Further treatment may be needed. It comes in different strength formulations; follow dosage recommendations below. Some evidence shows that Pepto-Bismol may work better than generic brands and that dogs may take the chewable tablets better than the oral suspension form.

Usual Dose and Administration  
Follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

***Salicylates can be fatal to cats. Bismuth subsalicylate should NOT be given to cats except under direct supervision by your veterinarian.***

Side Effects  
Tongue color may darken temporarily. Stool may turn a gray-black or greenish color during treatment. In humans, it has caused constipation.

Contraindications/Warnings  
Not for use in patients hypersensitive (allergic) to it or to aspirin products.

Use with caution in animals with bleeding problems like von Willebrand's disease.

Do not use in cats as it contains aspirin.

Not for use in pregnant or nursing animals.

Stool may turn a gray-black or greenish color during treatment. Do not confuse with melena (blood in the stool).

May interfere with reading of abdominal x-rays.

May cause inaccurate results of urine tests.

Shake well before use.

Drug or Food Interactions  
May decrease absorption of tetracycline antibiotics.

Do not use with aspirin since both contain salicylate.

Do not give with milk.

Overdose/Toxicity  
No information available. Potential to see changes in the blood, fever, bleeding, liver or kidney damage, or seizures.

## Summary

Bismuth subsalicylate is used to treat mild vomiting and diarrhea in dogs. It can be fatal if used in cats; use only under direct supervision of your veterinarian. Tongue and stool may darken temporarily. If the vomiting and/or diarrhea persists for more than 48 hours; the pet has a fever, is depressed or shows abdominal pain; or the pet does not continue to be active and alert, contact your veterinarian.