

Metronidazole

Metronidazole can quickly eradicate some of the deadly and debilitating protozoan complaints of freshwater and marine fishes. Particularly useful for hexamitosis (the causative organism in many cases of Head and Lateral Line (Neuromast) Erosion, or corrosive syndrome, and many gut infestations,

Scientific Designation:

1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-nitromidazole

Uses/Symptoms:

Principally for internal (lumen) protozoans and the flagellate commonly associated with HLLE (Hexamita, Octomita), though is promoted for use against other protozoans (Cryptocaryon, Ichthyophthirius). These last are better treated in other ways. Some groups of marine and freshwater fishes might/should be treated prophylactically... coming either directly from wild-environs or culture facilities known to harbor standing parasite fauna. Signs of neuromast destruction (HLLE) are open-pitting of the head and lateral line pores of fishes... Internal flagellate complaints manifest themselves in lethargic behavior, sitting on the bottom, bloating, slow, labored breathing, a lack of feeding...

Dosages/Regimens:

The most efficacious means of administering Metronidazole is through food. There is a further problem/issue of water solubility. In the process of mixing Metronidazole one must blend it well with water ahead of time as this material is not very water soluble. Soaking frozen or live foods in 1% solutions for a few hours in a refrigerator is a very good idea. Actual dosages are best at about 0.25% Metronidazole fed at a daily rate of 1% of body weight. Feed just once usually, no more than thrice.

For marines, long-term baths (a few hours) in more concentrated solutions may work... 5 mg of Metronidazole per liter (19 mg/gallon) administered daily for three treatments. Of course you must provide aeration during these baths.

Metronidazole may be added directly into water directly at dosages ranging from 6.6 to 25 mg/l of 25-95 mg/gallon either daily or every other day for three treatments total.

Tolerances/Dangers:

As stated, not safe to use continuously or repeatedly.

Use With Other Chemicals:

Safe to add, treat while in the presence of other compounds.

Note:

Metronidazole is also the treatment of choice for "Hole in the Head" (and side) "Disease" along with restorative measures to improve water quality and adequate nutrition. However, be aware that Metronidazole is toxic and accumulative in its toxicity.