

Effective treatment for Hydra, Intestinal Parasites including Hexamita, Gill Flukes and Camallanus

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This compound is NOT an antibiotic. It does not control bacteria or fungal infections and in fact may escalate these problems as they kill off the other infections. This compound is not the cure all.

Flubendazole is useful for controlling intestinal parasites, especially most of the protozoa, some nematodes and gill flukes. Flubendazole is active through adsorption into the fish's skin and gills. The drug does not have to be eaten to be effective. This makes the drug useful for treating fishes which have quit eating due to irritation from infection of the throat and gut. The pure compound has very limited solubility in water. Effective dosing is generally done with a medication powder form of 5 to 15% in some simple sugar like Sorbatol. I have available the 10% powder.

Effective treatment can be achieved with a dose of 1/2 gram of 10% Flubendazole per 20 gallons of treated water. A much higher economical treatment can be achieved by removing half of the water in the treated tank as long as the usual aeration and mixing can be maintained. Flubendazole does scavenge Oxygen from the water and sufficient surface movement should be maintained to assure there are no problems with dissolved air. Much higher dosing may be necessary in some persistent Protozoa infestations.

First things first, the tank water should be changed. It is not necessary to clean the tank, just change the water, as close to all of it as one can. After treatment, change it again. The bodies of the dead animals need to be removed. Also, it is best to have live wiggling or jumping food in front of the patients as they recover so have live baby brine shrimp or worms ready for the treated fishes to get their digestive track going again.

Add 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of the 10% medication for each 20 gallons of tank water. It may float for a while, but it needs to be mixed* into the tank water, swirl it in to dissolve. Hydra take two to three days to remove. Hexamita and other intestinal Protozoa may take three doses to remove completely over five to seven days to complete. Three days after the first treatment change the water again. Add another dose of 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon/20 gal. to the fresh water. Change the water a second time after 5 to 7 days.

This should take care of everything. A third dose after three or four weeks will insure the treatment, but usually isn't necessary unless symptoms reappear.

*Dissolving the Flubendazole compound may be difficult. Two methods work for me,
1. Take out a large cup or microwave safe bowl of tank water. Heat it in the microwave until it is too hot to touch - not boiling, just hot. Add the required 10% Flubendazole powder to hot

water and stir to dissolve. Allow it to cool some and gradually pour the solution into the tank to be treated.

2. In a small measuring cup or large spoon, add the required 10% Flubendazole powder. Add several drops of unflavored Vodka to the powder to begin a slurry and then almost a solution. Don't add more than half again as much powder you are working with. Stir in all well and then thoroughly mix the slurry into the tank to be treated.

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