

INFORMATION ON EQUINE MEDICATIONS

Covered Bridge Equine, Watkinsville, GA



DORMOSEDAN GEL

This FDA-approved medication is detomidine hydrochloride, and is a sedative in a gel formulation that owners can give to their horses by mouth. It's a safe, effective way for owners to administer a mild, standing sedative for procedures such as body clipping, mane pulling, shoeing, sheath cleaning, etc.

Dormosedan Gel does not provide analgesia (pain relief) and should not be used for painful procedures. It's available in a single dose syringe (the packaging looks like a tube of paste dewormer). This medication can be absorbed through human eyes, mouth, and skin, so great care needs to be taken when administering it to horses. It is therefore important to wear impermeable gloves when the dosing syringe is handled. Dormosedan Gel needs to be **administered at the appropriate dose under the horse's tongue** and is not meant to be swallowed. Make sure the horse's mouth contains no feed before administration of the gel, or the horse could easily spit it out.

Following dosing of the gel, the horse should be kept in a quiet area to allow the sedative to take effect. You may see the head lower and the front legs plant in a firm stance. This usually takes 35- 40 minutes. You may also notice swaying, sweating, salivation, and mild muscle tremors (all normal reactions to sedation). Use care when handling a sedated horse and avoid sudden movements and loud noises. It's also important to withhold food and water until the sedation has worn off completely. In general, the effects of sedation last from 90 to 180 minutes.

If you believe the correct dose of Dormosedan Gel was properly administered and the horse remains inadequately sedated, contact your veterinarian. Do not repeat the dose.

Dormosedan Gel has not been evaluated in ponies, donkeys, miniature horses, horses under one year of age, pregnant mares, or lactating mares. Therefore, use of this medication in the above horses should be avoided until further research has been carried out.

The syringe containing Dormosedan Gel is designed to be used only once. Partially used syringes should be discarded.

EXCEDE

Excede is the first FDA-approved long-acting antibiotic that works by sustained release. Excede contains the crystalline free acid of cefiofur, a derivative of Naxcel. It has the benefit of providing therapy in two doses that are **given intramuscularly on day 1 and day 4**, resulting in 10 days of therapy. Treatment is less stressful for the horse and easier for the owner.

Excede has been demonstrated to be both safe and effective in horses. In a recent study, 300 horses were given injections of Excede at the recommended dose and only ten horses experienced injection site swelling and sensitivity. To reduce the chance of muscle soreness, it has been recommended to give no more than 10 ml of Excede per injection site. There was a higher incidence of injection site reaction after the second dose.

The second most common adverse reaction to the administration of Excede was diarrhea. Out of the 300 horses included in the study, 25 experienced some form of soft stool. All cases of diarrhea were self-limiting and didn't require treatment. Drug induced diarrhea is a risk with any antibiotic therapy, not just Excede.

Excede has not been studied in horses less than 4 months of age and in breeding, pregnant, or lactating mares. It is also a prescription medication and is only available to be dispensed by a licensed veterinarian.

PENTOSAN EQUINE INJECTION

Pentosan Equine Injection (Sodium Pentosan Polysulfate 250 mg/ml) is a new treatment for arthritis in horses. It is a compounded medication (not FDA approved) that is used as an intramuscular injection in horses. It has been shown to actively reverse the effects of osteoarthritis in the joints of horses. It is an anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic and chondroprotective agent. Many owners are using it as a supplement for their horse's joint care. Rather than simply masking the pain, Pentosan directly stimulates joint healing and repair. It is given as a loading dose, one injection once a week for 4 treatments, then Pentosan is given at regular intervals as a maintenance treatment.

PRASCEND

Prascend (Equine Pergolide) is the first licensed medication used for the treatment of clinical signs associated with Equine Cushing's Disease. It acts by helping to bring cortisol concentrations in the bloodstream back to normal

levels. It can take up to 6- 12 weeks to see the full benefit of treatment, as the levels of cortisol in the body become normal again.

What is Cushings Disease?

This is a more common term for PPID (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction). Some of the clinical signs you as an owner may notice indicating this condition are:

- Haircoats that are heavier and last longer than other horses haircoats.
- Fat pockets on the body commonly seen on the crest of the neck and at the base of the tail.
- Horse will act older than his/her age indicates.
- Increased risk of laminitis.

Prascend is normally given once daily, and can be mixed with a small volume of molasses or food to ease administration, or the tablet can be dissolved in a small amount of water and administered directly into the mouth. The tablets should not be crushed.

In the past, we have used Pergolide in the compounded form for treatment, since this is the only way it was available. We had very positive results in horses who were treated with compounded Pergolide, however it was in liquid form that needed to be kept refrigerated. As you can imagine this is not always practical in a barn environment to keep a medication chilled. Prascend is an FDA approved tablet which maintains its strength throughout its shelf life without the need for refrigeration.

For more information you can visit www.prascend.com

Please let us know if you have questions about Prascend or if you think this medication is right for your horse with Cushing's Disease.