

Banamine®: How and When to Use

Covered Bridge Equine

Banamine®, also known as flunixin meglumine, is a prescription medication that is commonly used on horses as a pain reliever. This medication is administered to horses for treatment of colic pain, eye pain, and other soft tissue injuries. Banamine® is also commonly dispensed to our clients to have on-hand in a first aid kit to be used during episodes of mild colic pain or muscular discomfort under veterinary advisement. Like any medication however, it is important to understand how to use Banamine® safely and effectively.

- Banamine® comes in either **paste** or **liquid** form. A tube of Banamine® paste contains approximately three doses, depending on the size of the horse or pony being treated. This paste is safe and effective if given by mouth, which makes administration very easy for horse owners.
- The liquid form of Banamine® can be administered intravenously by veterinarians or orally and has a similar level of efficacy and absorption as the Banamine® paste.
 - Intravenous injections should only be given by a veterinarian or by a person experienced in giving IV injections.
 - If Banamine® is given in the artery by mistake, seizures and other severe reactions, including death, can occur.
 - Use caution when giving IV injections, and if you are not comfortable doing IV shots, use the liquid, remove the needle and squirt it directly into the horse's mouth!
- **Do not give Banamine® by intramuscular (IM) injection!**
 - Although years ago this was a common method of administration, a small percentage of horses will develop serious abscesses with the muscle. Sometimes these abscesses can be extremely severe (the entire neck of some horses will slough off from the infection) and this condition can be life threatening to the horse. Treatment often involves hospitalization and intensive care.