BEVA

Client Information Leaflet

Keep this leaflet safe, as you may need to refer to it again. Please ask your vet if you have any further questions.
This medicine has been prescribed for your horse ONLY. Do not take it yourself or give it to another person or any other animal; it may harm them even if their symptoms appear to be the same and could result in inadvertent contravention of Horse Passport legislation.

While BEVA have made every effort in preparing this information leaflet, the contents and any statements are made in good faith purely for general guidance and cannot be regarded as substitute for professional advice. The publishers, contributors and BEVA do not take responsibility for the information provided on this leaflet and hence do not accept any liability for loss or expense incurred (by you or persons that you disseminate the materials to) as a result of relying on content in this leaflet. To this end, you are advised to consult your vet and seek his/her professional advice before taking any steps set out in this leaflet. If you are a vet, you must not rely on the contents in this leaflet without independently verifying the correctness and veracity of the contents.

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Atropine Eye Drops

This medicine is not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse or donkey. Although it is not licensed for use in horses it is being used under the prescribing cascade.

What is atropine?
Atropine is a drug that acts on anti-cholinergic nerve receptors.

Why has my horse been prescribed atropine?
When used in the eye, atropine blocks nerve receptors in the iris and the ciliary body which results in dilation of the pupil. Atropine is most commonly administered to treat or prevent uveitis, a condition which results in closing of the pupil in response to inflammation of the iris and ciliary body.

How is this medicine administered? Atropine is applied as drops into the eye. Always use gloves to handle and apply the medication. When your horse is being treated with atropine you should protect it from exposure to bright light either by keeping it indoors or by applying a fly-mask or similar device.

Can my horse have atropine along with other medicines?
Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. Atropine may interact with other drugs that affect the nervous system so you should always check with your veterinary surgeon if you are administering other medicines.

What should I do if I run out of atropine? Contact your veterinary surgeon (ideally before you run out of medicine) to check if further treatment is required.

If my horse is not improving, what should I do?
Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct medication for your horse.

What are the possible side effects of atropine in my horse?
Atropine may reduce your horse's intestinal motility (contractions) and this can lead to colic and/or an intestinal impactions. You should count your horse's droppings every day whilst it is receiving atropine, and tell your vet if there is a reduction in the number of droppings or if there are any signs of colic. You should monitor the dilation of your horse's pupil and only administer as much atropine as is necessary to keep the pupil open.

What should I do if a person accidentally takes this medicine? If a person accidentally takes this medicine, you should contact NHS direct (telephone 111) or take the person to a local hospital taking this leaflet and the medication with you.

How should I store and handle atropine? As with all veterinary medicines, this drug should be stored out of reach of children and kept cool, dark and dry.

What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse? Excess medicine applied to the eye will spill out of the eye and is unlikely to cause side-effects. If you are concerned you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

What should I do if I miss a dose? If you miss a dose you should restart the medicine and make a note so that you can inform your veterinary surgeon of any missed doses when they re-evaluate your horse. You should check the size of your horse's pupil and let your vet know if it is closed and fails to open in response to re-starting treatment.

If my horse is better, what should I do with the remaining medicine? You should not reduce the length of the treatment course without discussing this with your veterinary surgeon. You should not keep and re-use the medicine without speaking to your veterinary surgeon.

What do I need to record in my horse's passport?
You should record the use of this medication in your horse's passport or sign section IX to permanently exclude the horse from the human food chain.

The prescribing cascade: This medicine is authorised for use in human patients or other animal species and is used by vets under the 'prescribing cascade'. Your vet can explain this in further detail and explain why they are prescribing this drug for your horse. If you do not agree to the use of this medicine in your horse you should discuss this before administration.