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.

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Domperidone

This medicine has been given or is intended to be given to your horse or donkey. It is not a licensed medicine and may be provided in a tablet with trade names such as Domperidone or Motilium. Other formulations may be dispensed by your veterinary surgeon including 'Special Veterinary Medicines' which are prepared to be more suitable for horses. These products have been formulated under strict production controls to ensure purity of the product. Although it is not licensed for use in these species, Domperidone is being advised by your veterinary surgeon under the prescribing cascade.

What is Domperidone?

Domperidone is a dopamine antagonist. Domperidone binds to the dopamine receptor in the brain, effectively blocking the action of dopamine and results in and increase in prolactin secretion. Prolactin functions to promote milk production and has many other actions within the body affecting the reproductive and metabolic systems amongst others.

Why has my horse/donkey been prescribed or supplied Domperidone?

Your horse/donkey will have been prescribed/supplied domperidone for two likely reasons. For the induction or stimulation of milk production, or for the stimulation of ovarian activity.

How should I store and handle Domperidone?

For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children.
There are no special storage requirements however do not store above 25°C. When administering tables to your horse one should wear gloves. Crushing or grinding tablets to aid in administration can represent a risk of human inhalation and therefore appropriate precautions should be taken. Alternative formulations that do not require crushing/grinding might be considered.

What should I do if I run out of Domperidone?

Usually, your vet will dispense the correct amount of the product. If you run out or can see that you are going to run out, you should contact your veterinary surgeon and follow their advice.

What should I do if I accidently overdose my horse?

Contact your vet for advice. The safety of domperidone has only been studied in the last 45 days of pregnancy and the first 15 days of lactation. The long-term effects on foals born to mares treated with domperidone have not been studied.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Contact your vet. If a dose is missed just give the next dose at the normal time. DO NOT give a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

If my horse/donkey is better, what should I do with the remaining medicine?

It is important that you follow your vet's advice. You should contact your veterinary surgeon before changing the dose or stopping the medication. It is best that surplus medication is returned to your veterinary surgeon to be safely disposed of.

If my horse/donkey is not improving, what should I do?

Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct drug for your horse.

Can my horse/donkey take domperidone along with other medications?

It is important that you tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. Significant inhibition of domperidone metabolism may occur when co-administered with antibiotics such as clarithromycin and erythromycin and antifungals such as ketoconazole. This could result in significantly greater domperidone levels when used with these drugs. Domperidone will oppose the action of pergolide or cabergoline which are used to treat PPID/Cushing's.

What do I need to record in my horse or donkey's passport?

This medicine is not marketed for use in horses intended for human consumption. However current legislation allows it to be used in such horses without the need for residue limits. If your horse has not been excluded from the human food chain, you must keep a record of its use and its use should be followed by a 6-month withholding period before the horse can enter the food chain. If you have no intention of your horse entering the human food chain, it is best to sign in the passport that it has been excluded.

What are the possible side effects of domperidone in my horse/donkey?

Domperidone may cause premature lactation when administered to pregnant mares and a subsequent failure of passive transfer of immunity in the foals. It may lead to premature birth, low birth weight foals or foal morbidity if administered more than 15 days before the expected foaling date. Domperidone appears to induce elevations of white blood cell counts and liver enzymes without causing liver disease. **If you observe any abnormal behaviour or other adverse effects, contact your vet immediately and stop administering the product.**

What should I do if a person accidentally takes or has a needle stick injury with this medicine?

If a person accidentally takes this medicine you should contact NHS direct (telephone 111) or take the person to a local hospital.

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.