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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Fipronil

This medicine is not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse. The active drug, fipronil, has many different formulations and trade names that may be dispensed by your veterinary surgeon. Although it is not licensed for use in horses it is being used under the prescribing cascade.

What is fipronil?

Fipronil is applied to, and absorbed into, the skin and kills parasites such as fleas and mites that live in hair and skin.

Why has my horse been prescribed fipronil?

Fipronil is a treatment for skin parasites and is most commonly used in horses to treat skin mites (*Chorioptes spp* often termed "feather mites") that cause irritation of the legs of horses. There are no veterinary medicines licensed for the control of *Chorioptes* mites.

How is this medicine administered?

This medicine is usually sprayed on affected areas of the skin. Always use disposable gloves to handle the spray container and to apply the medication.

If my horse is not improving what should I do?

Contact your veterinary surgeon who will review whether this is the correct drug for your horse. Other treatments are available for the control of feather mites in your horse.

Fipronil is highly effective in controlling mites on your horse's skin. However, the complex life cycle of the mites means that your horse may become re-infected after treatment: a) Clipping leg hairs may be required to enhance the control of these mites, application to long feathers may be ineffective. A proportion of mites will survive in the environment and therefore strict hygiene controls within the stable should be combined with treatment of your horse. This should include removal of all bedding and thorough cleaning of the stable. Repeat treatment may be necessary.

Can my horse take these medicines along with other medicines?

There are few incompatibilities but you should always check with your veterinary surgeon if you are administering any other medications.

What side effects can occur with fipronil application?

Side effects are very uncommon. Application of chemicals to the skin is always accompanied by the possibility of a localised skin reaction but the risk with this medication is very low. Signs of a reaction include swelling, redness or oozing from the skin surface. Even at minute levels, fipronil is toxic to invertebrates in the environment so care should be taken to prevent the drug entering watercourses or being washed off after application.

What should I do if I accidentally overdose my horse?

This is unlikely with a leg mite treatment, but if you have concerns, you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

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 fipronil?

As with all veterinary medicines, this drug should be stored out of reach of children and kept cool, dark and dry.

How should I dispose of fipronil and its packaging?

This product is highly toxic to invertebrates and aquatic life. Do not do anything that might result in contamination of ponds, waterways or ditches with the product or used container. Your veterinary surgeon will dispose of the packaging appropriately if you return it to them.

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

It is important that you follow the recommended treatment prescribed by your veterinary surgeon and do not apply the medication without veterinary guidance. Contact your veterinary surgeon if you have treatment left over, they may advise that you keep remaining medicine in case they need to prescribe further treatment.

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.

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.

Further information

Chorioptes mites can cause an intense itchy skin condition of the horse. Affected horses may rub their legs or stamp continuously. Mites cannot be seen with the naked eye, and therefore your vet may take samples from your horse's skin in order to confirm the presence of mites.