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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Fusidic Acid (Skin Ointment)

This medicine is not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse or donkey. The active drug, fusidic acid, has different trade names such as Isaderm or Betafuse that may be dispensed by your veterinary surgeon. Although it is not licensed for use in horses, fusidic acid is being used under the prescribing cascade.

What is fusidic acid?
Fusidic acid is an antibiotic ointment that is used to treat bacterial infections.

Why has my horse been prescribed fusidic acid?
Your horse has been prescribed fusidic acid to treat a suspected or confirmed infection of the skin with bacteria.

How is this medicine administered? Fusidic acid is applied to the skin. Always use gloves to handle the tube and the ointment itself.

Can my horse have fusidic acid along with other medicines?
Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. There are few incompatibilities but you should always check with your veterinary surgeon.

What should I do if I run out of fusidic acid?
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. They may wish to perform tests to re-evaluate what is causing the infection and what the most effective treatment is likely to be.

What are the possible side effects of fusidic acid in my horse? 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.

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 fusidic acid?
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? This is unlikely with a skin ointment, but if you have concerns, contact your veterinary surgeon.

What should I do if I miss a dose? Just 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.

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.