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.

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Praziquantel

What is praziquantel?
Praziquantel is a de-wormer that is effective against tapeworms. Praziquantel is widely used in authorised veterinary medicines in combination with other de-worming products but there are no authorised products that only contain this drug. Your veterinary surgeon is prescribing an extemporaneous product under the prescribing cascade to your horse. Use of this praziquantel alone in horses that do not require additional de-worming products reduces the selection pressure for resistance, especially with small and large strongyles.

Why does my horse need praziquantel? In large numbers, tapeworms are associated with an increased risk of a number of different types of colic, some of which can only be resolved with surgery. Praziquantel is used to keep tapeworms, specifically Anoplocephala perfoliata, at a level that is safe for your horse. Your vet may recommend treatment if your horse has not been treated for a long time or has suffered colic. Determining the need for treatment can be assisted by blood or saliva test results that can be used to assess tapeworm burdens.

How should praziquantel be stored? For safety, all medicines should be kept out of the reach and sight of children. There are no special storage requirements.

Can praziquantel be used in horses that are pregnant or lactating? Studies conducted in laboratory animals have revealed no evidence of teratogenic, embryotoxic or maternotoxic effects following administration of praziquantel at therapeutic doses. The safety of the veterinary medicinal product following administration to mares during gestation and lactation has not been studied. The product should only be used in mares during pregnancy and lactation after assessment of the benefit/risk balance by your veterinary surgeon.

What should I do with any medicine that is left over?
It is important that a full dose of de-wormer is administered. Do not use any medication that is left over without veterinary advice. Do not administer a lower dose than recommended by your veterinary surgeon.

Can praziquantel cause side-effects? If horses have a high tapeworm burden then killing of these tapeworms can occasionally cause mild colic or mild diarrhoea. This is rare and can occur with any de-wormer. You should contact your veterinary surgeon for advice if you think your horse is showing side-effects.

Can praziquantel be used in all horses? Tapeworm infection is unlikely in foals of under 2 months of age so praziquantel would not normally be used below this age.

What should I do if I have administered too much praziquantel? Praziquantel did not cause any adverse effects when it was administered at 5 times the recommended dose for 3 consecutive days. However, if you suspect your horse has received an overdose then you should contact your veterinary surgeon.

Can resistance to praziquantel develop? Resistance to all de-wormers can develop so praziquantel should only be used when necessary as advised by a veterinary surgeon.

Can praziquantel be administered alongside other medicines? Praziquantel is not known to react with other medicines, however you should make your vet aware if your horse is receiving other treatment.

What do I need to record in my horse's passport?
Praziquantel that is produced as an extemporaneous preparation or "special" is not authorised for use in horses, however there are no requirements to record its use or amend your horses passport since the active substance is permitted in food producing animals (37/2010)

What should I do if the product contacts my skin?
You should always wash hands thoroughly after treating animals. Any spillage of the product onto human skin should be removed by washing with soap and water.

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