

TECHNICAL NOTES



XYLAZINE

100 mg/mL Analgesic, Sedative and Muscle Relaxant Injection for Horses



Active Constituents

Xylazine (as hydrochloride) 100 mg/mL

Indications

Analgesic, sedative and muscle relaxant for use in horses.

Dosage & Administration

Use the contents within 3 months of first broaching the vial. Discard the unused portion.

Horses

Vary dosage schedule according to circumstances and depth and duration of sedation required.

Intravenous administration usually gives a more rapid onset of effect, but the duration is shorter than with intramuscular administration.

Xylazine may be used alone or combined with other sedatives, analgesics and anaesthetics to produce the desired effect from mild sedation to heavy sedation to (in combination with ketamine) full surgical anaesthesia.

Mild sedation

Intravenous (slow): 0.25 - 0.5 mL per 100 kg bodyweight (0.25 - 0.5 mg per kg).

Heavy sedation

Intravenous (slow): 1.1 mL per 100 kg bodyweight (1.1 mg per kg).

Intramuscular: 2.2 mL per 100 kg bodyweight (2.2 mg per kg).

Spasmodic Colic

Xylazine may be used as a sedative/analgesic in spasmodic (hypermotility) colic. However, it is contraindicated in cases of obstructive colic or ileus as xylazine will further reduce gut motility. In early stages of presentation of colic, it may be difficult to differentiate between spasmodic colic and one that will progress to obstructive colic. Therefore, considerable care should be taken in diagnosis and alternative analgesia used if diagnosis is in doubt.

Intravenous (slow): 0.5 mL per 100 kg bodyweight (0.5 mg per kg). This dose will provide analgesia for about 20 minutes. Other α -2 adrenoceptor agonists, may provide more powerful and longer lasting sedation and analgesic effects. In cases of moderate to severe spasmodic colic, profound analgesia can be achieved by combining butorphanol with xylazine (0.5 mg per kg).

General Directions

Pharmacology:

Xylazine is a non-narcotic sedative, analgesic and muscle relaxant. A therapeutic response may be expected in 1-5 minutes following intravenous administration. A period of sedation is maintained for 1-2 hours, while significant levels of analgesia last 15-30 minutes. The duration and depth of analgesia and sedation are dependent on dose and temperament. Intravenous administration reduces heart rate and respiratory rate and may produce transient heart block.

Clinical Applications:

1. Radiography:

To calm alarmed or difficult animals so they remain immobile during radiography.

2. Diagnostic Procedures:

To keep the animal calm and quiet during more painful diagnostic procedures; Endoscopy, Ophthalmic examination, Rectal examination, Peritoneal tap.

3. Minor Surgical Procedures:

Suturing, Bandaging, Surgery under local anaesthetic.

4. Anaesthesia:

In combination with Ketamine to induce anaesthesia. Post-anaesthesia to smooth difficult recoveries.

5. Colic:

Horses with severe colic frequently become unmanageable and in danger of serious self-injury. Xylazine can be an effective analgesic/sedative in cases of spasmodic (hypermotility) colic and has the capacity to facilitate further examination and reduce the risk of injury to handlers and animals. However, its use is contraindicated in cases of obstructive colic or ileus (see Contraindications section) and therefore considerable care should be taken in diagnosis, especially in the early presentation of colic as it may be difficult to differentiate between spasmodic colic and one that may progress to obstructive colic and alternative analgesia may be more appropriate if diagnosis is in doubt.

Withholding Periods

MEAT: DO NOT USE less than 28 days before slaughter for human consumption.

Storage

Store below 25°C (Air Conditioning). Protect from light.

Contraindications

This product is contraindicated in the following situations:

- Intra-arterial administration
- Use in horses with obstructive colic or ileus
- Use in mares in last trimester of pregnancy
- Concurrent administration with adrenaline

Precautions

Not recommended for use in animals with cardiovascular or cardiac disease, shock, hypotension or hypertension.

Avoid use with tranquilisers or other agents that may give rise to cardiovascular effects.

Not recommended for use in animals with respiratory depression. Because xylazine may cause muscle relaxation of the upper respiratory tract, take particular care if an animal shows pre-existing signs of upper airway obstruction.

Avoid use in animals with renal or hepatic disease.

Avoid painful stimuli which may cause an apparently sedated animal to suddenly react without restraint. Sedated animals may also react unpredictably to noise.

Exercise due caution when handling xylazine sedated horses which may become hypersensitive to touch around the hindquarters. Such horses may kick.

First Aid

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or phone the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 (Australia).

Safety Data Sheet

For Safety Data Sheet see www.avet.health

Disposal

Dispose of container by wrapping with paper and putting in garbage.

Presentation

50 mL multidose vial

Poisons schedule

S4

Registration Number

APVMA Approval Number: 92898