TECHNICAL NOTES

Dormosedan®

Sedative/analgesic for horses

Registered Name

Dormosedan® Sedative/analgesic for horses

Active Constituents

Detomidine hydrochloride 10 mg/mL

Description

Dormosedan® is detomidine hydrochloride, a sedative/analgesic for horses, with dose related effect.

Indications

Dormosedan is a dose controlled equine sedative and analgesic for all indications including visceral pain. It is employed for facilitation of examinations, X-rays, minor surgical operations, transport etc. and for control of pain including that of the uncomplicated colic case.

Dormosedan has a role for the provision of prolonged analgesia for example with the accident case.

Metabolism and Excretion

Dormosedan is evenly distributed in the body and rapidly penetrates brain and CNS. Dormosedan is rapidly absorbed from the injection site and evenly distributed. Site tolerance is high with minimal tissue irritation.

Dormosedan is extensively metabolised and the metabolites excreted principally in urine, with the average elimination half-life of 1.2 hours. Therefore the retention of residues is very low, and 70-80 % of the total dose is excreted from the body during two consecutive days.

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Mode of Action

Dormosedan is an alpha-2 adrenoceptor agonist at central and peripheral sites. Its central depressive action produces a decrease in vigilance of the animal without any hypnotic effect. Dormosedan is non-narcotic. It causes temporary blockage of pain impulses, and reduces the level of consciousness resulting in heavy or deep sedation, but does not produce unconsciousness. Animals treated within the recommended range of doses remain standing, and seek a well-balanced footing.

Dormosedan exerts its analgesic effect by inhibition of CNS-mediated transmission of pain impulses and pain sensation.

Dormosedan's alpha-adrenergic effects include increase in arterial blood pressure and bradycardia.

Directions for Use

Restraint: NOT TO BE USED in food producing species of animals.

Contraindications

Dormosedan is contraindicated for use in pregnant mares.
Intravenous potentiated sulphonamides are contraindicated in sedated or anaesthetised horses as potentially fatal dysrhythmias may occur. Adverse reactions including deaths have been reported when used concomitantly with detomidine or halothane.

Precautions

Dormosedan may cause penile relaxation. Use with caution on male horses, particularly stallions during the breeding season.
Clinicians should anticipate the occasional tendency of the horse's head to drop under the influence of Dormosedan and the subject should be accommodated appropriately.
Immediately following administration there may be a tendency to stagger, particularly if high dose rates are employed.
The horse should not be fed until the effect of the drug has worn off.
The safe handling of horses can be improved with Dormosedan. Although the horse is easy to handle under Dormosedan sedation, normal restricting methods are recommended. Local anaesthetics can be used when required for painful procedures, particularly surgery, as the duration of analgesia from Dormosedan may not equate with the duration of sedation.

Other Effects

Sympathomimetic properties, particularly at higher doses, may include piloerection, sweating, diuresis and occasional slight tremors.

Cardiovascular system:
Dormosedan causes an increase in arterial blood pressure and a decrease in heart rate at the recommended dose levels. Recovery to the initial levels occurs approximately at the same time as the clinical effect has worn off.
Slight and transitory arrhythmias may appear, and secondary A-V and S-A blocks may occur.

Respiratory system:
Respiration is stimulated after a brief depression. Pauses in the breathing pattern may occur. The pH remains stable.

Gastrointestinal system:
Under the influence of Dormosedan, gastrointestinal involuntary movements are reduced.

Overdosage:
The symptoms may be relieved by atropine or specific alpha-2 antagonist.

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Dosage:

Dosage is usually from 10-80 micrograms per kilogram of body weight depending upon the desired depth and duration of effect. Administration is by the intravenous or intramuscular route.

The dose response can be graded from I to III as follows.

Grade of effect	Degree of sedation	Average duration (hours)	Dosage	
			µg/kg	mL/100 kg
I	Mild	0.5 - 1	10 - 20	0.1 - 0.2
II	Moderate	1 - 2	20 - 40	0.2 - 0.4
III	Heavy	2 - 6	40 - 80	0.4 - 0.8

For analgesia in COLIC until diagnosis is confirmed, recommended dose is 20 – 40 µg /kg BW (0.2 – 0.4 mL/100 kg BW).

The full analgesic effect is established by 5 – 15 minutes following administration.
If the desired level of sedation is not achieved following administration of a low dose, a further, additive, dose may be given.

MEAT WITHHOLDING PERIOD (HORSES): NOT TO BE USED in horses intended for human consumption.

Additional safety instructions

Detomidine (Dormosedan) is a centrally acting alpha-2 adrenergic agonist, similar in its pharmacology to clonidine.
Dormosedan is a potent preparation and any accidental spillage etc should be promptly washed off. Accidental administration to humans may produce hypertension of variable duration which may be followed by hypotension. First aid should include careful monitoring of the blood pressure with administration of phentolamine if dangerous levels of hypertension develop.
Hypotension should be treated with fluid replacements and other supportive measures.

First aid

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone 13 1126.

Disposal

Dispose of empty vial by wrapping with paper and putting in garbage.

Presentation

5 mL glass vials

Storage

Store below 25°C (air conditioning). Protect from light.
In-use shelf life: Product is stable for 3 months after initial broaching. Discard any remainder after that date.

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GHS Information

See Safety Data Sheet for GHS Information

Poisons Schedule

S4

Registration Number

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