

GEM EQUINE



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.

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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.

Doramectin

This medicine has been prescribed, or given, for your horse or pony and is not licensed as a veterinary medicine for use in the horse. The drug is called Doramectin and may have trade names such as Dectomax, although other formulations may be dispensed by your veterinary surgeon. Although it is not licensed for use in these species it is being used under the prescribing cascade.

What is doramectin?

Doramectin is broad spectrum ectoparasiticide and endoparasiticide product that is a member of the prsoducts referred to as macrocyclic lactones. It is most commonly used to treat skin mites (*Chorioptes* spp) that causes irritation of the legs of horses, typically those with extensive feathers.

Why has my horse been prescribed doramectin?

There are no veterinary medicines licensed for the control of *Chorioptes* mites (feather mites) and this product is licensed for the treatment of similar conditions in other veterinary species. This use is allowed under the prescribing cascade.

What side effects can occur with doramectin injections?

Side effects are uncommon. The most common problem seen with this medicine is short-term local pain or swelling at the injection site. If this occurs, please contact your vet.

How is this medicine administered?

This medicine is usually administered by subcutaneous injection, on two or three occasions 14 days apart. If you are administering the injection yourself, you should follow your veterinary surgeon's guidance about injection technique.

How should this medicine be stored?

As with all veterinary medicines, this should be stored out of reach of children. It should be stored at room temperature and NOT refrigerated.

Disposal advice Dispose of any unused product and empty containers in accordance with guidance from your local waste regulation authority.

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS to fish and aquatic life. Do not contaminate ponds, waterways or ditches with the product or used container. The risk to aquatic ecosystems

will be reduced by keeping treated horses away from water bodies for two to five weeks after treatment.

Further information *Chorioptes* mites causes 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 condition.

Is this product effective? Doramectin is highly effective in controlling mites on your horse's skin. However, the complex life cycle of the mites means that your horse may continue to have a considerable mite burden even after two injections:

- Mites living within your horse's leg hair, rather than on the skin, are not affected by the injection and therefore clipping leg hairs and combining injections with topical treatments may be required to enhance the control of these mites
- Mite eggs are not affected by the injections. Since these hatch every two weeks, fortnightly injections are needed to control the emerging populations of mites
- 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

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, topical, treatments can be effective in controlling feather mites in your horse.

Can my horse take these medicines along with other medicines?

Tell your vet if you are giving your horse any other medicines. There are few incompatibilities between doramectin and other medicines. The injection is also effective against certain gastro-intestinal roundworms, and this treatment may form part of a worm control programme in your horse.

What do I need to record in my horse's passport?

Doramectin is permitted in food producing animals with a 70 days withdrawal period and therefore there are no specific requirements to amend your horse's passport.



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.