

HA Special Care Drug Chart

Drug name Common name	Drug classification	Indications / common uses	Administration and onset – full effect	Duration	Side effects and Hazards	Contraindications
Acepromazine PromAce Ace Aceproject	Tranquilizer Phenothiazine type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tranquilization & mild sedation • decrease anxiety • laminitis- peripheral vasodilator • relaxation of penis muscle • very little analgesic effect • tranquilization for: trailering, turnout, prevent excitement • non-immobilizing and little ataxia 	less effective if given after horse is excited IV: 10-15 minutes IM: 10-30 minutes Orally: 20-60 minutes *increasing dosage in non-responding horses does not increase sedation	1-4 hours if horse is left quiet Little effect if horse is already excited Can vary greatly among individual horses. Detectable in blood for up to 120 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decreases blood pressure • depresses CNS • Penile paralysis • prolapsed third eyelid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not used in colic • dehydration, anemia, shock, or when recently dewormed with piperazine • use in stallions
Xylazine Rompum Sedazine	Sedative and analgesic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tranquilization • pain relief – colic • dental work, lowering head, joint injections, premed for anesthesia • muscle relaxation 	IV: 1-5 minutes IM: 10-20 minutes	30-40 IV, 60-90 IM dose depending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slows heart rate, increases BP • ataxia and sweating • horse may appear sedated but can react suddenly-kick • decreases gut motility, can mask colic pain • lethal to humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should not be used in horse with abnormal heart rhythm, shock, dehydration, and severe respiratory, kidney, or liver disease
Flunixin meglumine Banamine	**NSAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abdominal pain • anti-pyretic (fever reducer) • prevention of endotoxemia • soft tissue inflammation – eye • anti-inflammatory, not commonly used for musculoskeletal system 	IV: 10-15 minutes (10cc 1000 lb horse) **IM: 15-30 minutes Orally: 20-40 minutes (10cc 1000 lb horse)	12-16 hours depending on dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can mask symptoms of colic • GI ulcers if given orally • **IM injection can cause injection site abscess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chronic use can cause GI Ulcer • kidney damage in dehydrated horses
Dexamethasone Azium, Predef 2x	Corticosteroid: hormone naturally produced by adrenal gland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fast acting anti-inflammatory for all body tissues: allergic reactions, ocular disorders, COPD • CNS inflammation • shock • decrease immune response • proud Flesh • autoimmune disorders • powerful membrane stabilizer 	IV: within 5 minutes IM: within 15 minutes Orally: 1-2 hours, tapering doses at the end of oral treatment Topical ointments and creams	Days to week If more than one dose is used then taper off the drug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vary depending on dose and treatment duration • laminitis or founder with prolonged treatment • increased drinking and urination • inhibit normal hormone production • delay healing • suppress immune response • gastric ulcers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid in pregnant or lactating mares • use caution when using in older horses and ponies
Phenylbutazone Bute	**NSAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • musculoskeletal pain (decreases nerve hypersensitivity) and inflammation: lameness, arthritis, trauma, laminitis • fever reduction • general anti-inflammatory 	IV: 15-20 minutes (10ml for 1000lb horse) Orally (tablets, powder, paste): 30-60 minutes (up to 2g per day) Never IM	12-24 hours Exceeding recommended dose does not increase its effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with chronic use: gastric ulcers, kidney damage in dehydrated horses 	Caution when used in horse with GI problems, kidney or liver disease, pregnant or lactating mare
Butorphanol Torbutrol Torbugesic	Synthetic narcotic Opioid analgesic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analgesic, most commonly for severe colic pain, laminitis, dentistry • may be used with other sedative or analgesic to enhance effect • 2-5 x more potent than morphine 	IV or IM injection (.5-1 cc for 1000lb horse) Onset within 5-10 minutes, quicker for IV	About 4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ataxia • temporary CNS response: continuous walking and head tossing (“torb jerks”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • caution when used in pregnant or lactating mares

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Ketoprofen Ketofen	**NSAID (similar to ibuprofen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anti-inflammatory: ocular, musculoskeletal, and soft tissue • pain relief, if used in colic it's not as effective as banamine • prevention of endotoxemia • fever reducer • used in foals 	IV: 10-15 minutes (1.1-2.2mg/kg once daily) Manufacture does not recommend IM injection however it is occasionally done	12-24 hours	Least likely NSAID to cause side effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GI ulcers, kidney damage in dehydrated horses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirin allergies Caution when used in horse with GI problems and kidney or liver disease
Detomidine Dormosedan	Sedative and analgesic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a faster, stronger, and longer sedation than all of the commonly used sedatives • pain relief for colic • pre-med for anesthesia • better at preventing unexpected movements 	IV: 2-5 minutes (.2-1cc / 1000lb horse) IM: up to 20 minutes (double dose of IV) *horses react differently *lethal to humans	60-90 minutes IV, longer for IM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slows the heart rate • can mask severity of colic symptoms, slows gut motility • ataxia • sweating and increased blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should not be used in horse with abnormal heart rhythm
Hyaluronic Acid Legend, Conquer, Equuron, Synacid, Hylartin	Osteoarthritis and cartilage protective agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA is a compound that is naturally found in cartilage and joint fluid • degenerative arthritis • anti-inflammatory effect on joints • joint lubricant, shock absorber, and cartilage nourishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IV injection (40mg), weekly for 3-4 wks then monthly • intra-articular (20mg) • oral paste • admin. intervals varies among vets 	IV onset within 24 hours Intra-articular within hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint injection has risk of joint infection, some vets prescribe antibiotics for prevention • acute joint inflammation 	Non reported
Romifidine Sedivert	Sedative and analgesic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pain relief • strong quick sedation • used prior to general anesthesia • long duration, good for shipping colic horses to surgery 	• IV: 1-5 minutes	IV: 1-3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slows heart rate • loss of coordination and sweating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • should not be used in horse with abnormal heart rhythm
Polysulfated Glycosamino- glyccan Adaquan	Osteoarthritis and cartilage protective agent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • degenerative arthritis • decreases joint inflammation • helps to protect cartilage • similar to glycosaminoglycan which is part of joint fluid and cartilage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IM injection: 500mg weekly for 3-4 wks then monthly • admin. intervals varies among vets 	IM: found throughout body tissue within 2 hours may last for up to 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • injection site infection 	
Surpass Diclufenac	Topical NSAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controls pain and inflammation associated with arthritis or acute injury • penetrates the skin to provide relief to inflamed and painful joint or area 	Topical paste rubbed onto affected joint • clip and brush/wash skin before application	• typical dosage is 2 times/day for 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must wear rubber gloves when applying to prevent absorption through skin • possible skin irritation • because it is an NSAID there is a risk of GI side effects but uncommon in topical joint treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any horse with sensitivity to chemicals within diclufenac

**NSAID: increasing recommended dosage increases toxicity without much increase in its effect, combining NSAIDs at one time can increase toxicity without much increase in effect

Resources: Understanding Equine Medications by Barbara D. Forney VMD, previous pony club handout with unknown author, The Merck Veterinary Manual, Paula Alves Horne DVM, Stacey Anderson DVM

Updated 2009 Asia Thayer