www.headwayanimalhealth.com.au
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DIAZEWAY INJECTION

For use as a preanesthetic and anticonvulsant in dogs.

For use as an anticonvulsant in foals and as a pre-anaesthetic to xylazine/ketamine anaesthesia in horses.

ACTIVE CONSTITUENT:

5 mg/mL DIAZEPAM

NET CONTENTS: 20 mL

CLAIMS:

For use as a preanesthetic and anticonvulsant in dogs.

For use as an anticonvulsant in foals and as a pre-anaesthetic to xylazine/ketamine anaesthesia in horses.

CONTRAINDICTIONS:

This product is contraindicated for use in pregnant animals. Avoid intra-arterial administration. Avoid injection into small veins, as phlebitis and thrombosis may result. DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection should be given by slow intravenous injection, as propylene glycol contained in the formulation may cause bradycardia and fatal cardiac arrest if administration is too rapid.

Diazepam binds extensively to plasma proteins and should be used cautiously with other drugs that also have high plasma-protein-binding activity. Benzodiazepines potentiate the action of other CNS depressants.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

PHARMACOLOGY

Diazepam is a member of the benzodiazepine group of centrally acting drugs. The benzodiazepines are responsible for muscle relaxant, sedative, anxiolytic and anticonvulsant effects at clinical dose rates. Ataxia results from higher dose rates. Benzodiazepines exert their pharmacological effects by enhancing the inhibitory GABA neurotransmitters in the CNS. The GABA receptor is a Cl- channel that opens upon activation, permitting Cl- influx and membrane hyperpolarisation. This results in inhibition of neurotransmission.

Work with labelled benzodiazepines has demonstrated the presence of discrete, high-affinity benzodiazepine-receptive sites in the mammalian brain. These receptors are widely distributed throughout the grey matter and have been postulated responsible for the anxiolytic and anticonvulsant actions of the benzodiazepines.

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

Convulsant Seizures: Neonatal Foals

Generalised seizures with episodic convulsion in the neonatal foal are rapidly controlled in many cases by intravenous injection of diazepam. Dose rates of between 5mg and 20mg (1-4mL DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection) per 50kg bodyweight are administered by slow intravenous injection and repeated when necessary. Diazepam administration may be fatal at higher dose rates in the convulsing foal. Lack of response or rapid reappearance of seizures following repeated dosage with diazepam will necessitate administration of phenobarbital sodium by slow intravenous injection.

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Preanaesthetic: Horses

Diazepam is administered as a premedicant to xylazine/ ketamine anaesthesia in horses to smooth both anaesthetic induction and recovery. The advantages of the regimen are retained, viz. analgesia, muscle relaxation and stable cardiopulmonary function. DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection is administered by intramuscular injection at a dose rate of 60mg per 450kg bodyweight (12mL/450kg bw), twenty minutes prior to xylazine injection. Xylazine is administered by intravenous injection at a dose rate of 1.1mg/kg xylazine per 450kg body weight, with sedation and ataxia resulting in 2-3 minutes. Ketamine is then administered to finalise induction at a dose rate of 2.2mg/kg ketamine per 450kg body weight by rapid intravenous injection.

Preanaesthetic: Dogs

Diazepam injection administered intramuscularly or intravenously at 0.2 – 0.6mg/kg (0.2 0.6 mL DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection per 5kg bodyweight) is a safe and effective premedicant to various anaesthetic regimes in the dog. Premedication with diazepam is appropriate for the cardiac compromised patient.

Status Epilepticus: Dogs

Diazepam injection has been successfully applied to the treatment of clinical cases of status epilepticus in dogs. An initial dose of 5mg (1mL DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection) is administered by slow intravenous injection. A repeat dose is given if the initial dose fails to satisfactorily dispel the seizure within one to two minutes. Pentobarbital sodium (16.5mg/kg by slow intravenous injection) is then administered if the clinical signs persist following the second diazepam injection.

In the healthy adult patient, mild generalised weakness and tranquillisation are usually evident for about 3 hours following diazepam administration.

Strychnine poisoning: Dogs

Diazepam is the first-line drug of choice for control of life-threatening seizures which characterise dogs presenting with strychnine poisoning. Initial intravenous dosage of 1mg/ kg diazepam (2 mL DIAZEWAY 5 mg/mL Injection per 10kg bodyweight) slowly by intravenous injection, followed by the same dose by intramuscular injection may be administered to initiate treatment for strychnine poisoning.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Use the contents of this vial within 90 days of initial use. Discard the unused portion.

Dogs	Preanaesthetic	1-3mg/5kg bw (0.2-0.6ml/5kg bw)	IM or slow IV Injection
Dogs	Anticonvulsant	5mg/5kg bw (1ml/5kg bw)	Slow IV Injection
Horses	Preanaesthetic to Xylazine/Ketamine Anaesthesia	60mg/450kg bw (12ml/450kg bw)	IM Injection
Foals	Anticonvulsant	5-20mg/50kg bw (1-4ml/50kg bw)	Slow IV Injection

Diazepam is denatured by contact with plastic for more than a few minutes, so diazepam should not be stored in plastic syringes.

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WITHHOLDING PERIODS:

MEAT WITHHOLDING PERIOD (HORSES): DO NOT USE less than 28 days before slaughter for human consumption.

FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS:

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone Australia 131126.

DISPOSAL:

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

STORAGE

Store below 30°C (Room temperature). Do not freeze. Protect from light.

APVMA Approval No.: 89028/135601

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