

PRESCRIPTION ANIMAL REMEDY
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN
FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY

Alfaxan[®]-CD RTU

Anaesthetic Injection

ACTIVE INGREDIENT

10 mg/mL Alfaxalone

APPEARANCE: Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection is a clear, colourless, sterile solution for injection, presented in a multi-use injection vial.

DESCRIPTION: Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection is an injectable steroid anaesthetic for use in dogs and cats. Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection can be used as an induction agent prior to gaseous anaesthesia or as a sole anaesthetic agent for the performance of examination or surgical procedures.

In surgical anaesthesia produced by Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection, there is good relaxation of the abdominal muscles and respiration is usually well maintained. There may be a transient decrease in arterial blood pressure in the initial stages of anaesthesia. In dogs, a short transient period of apnoea may occur at the time of induction especially if the drug is administered as a rapid bolus injection. Recovery is usually uneventful and, at the recommended dose rate for surgical anaesthesia, the animal would be expected to recover to sternal recumbency within 60 to 80 minutes.

The intramuscular route is useful to induce sedation in the cat to facilitate handling, detailed clinical examination and the practice of any procedure that requires a high degree of restraint rather than complete surgical anaesthesia. Some degree of variability may be experienced when using Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection by the intramuscular route, but this can be minimised by ensuring the injection is given by deep intramuscular injection. The quadriceps muscle mass is suggested as a suitable injection site.

Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection does not cause tissue irritation after perivascular or intramuscular injection.

The use of premedicants will reduce the dose of Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection required and may prolong the duration of anaesthesia and the recovery time. Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection has been safely used in combination with the premedicants acepromazine, atropine, methadone, butorphanol tartrate, diazepam and xylazine. The concomitant use of other CNS depressants should be expected to potentiate the depressant effects of either product, and appropriate dose adjustments should be made.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE: Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection **SHOULD NOT BE used in combination with other intravenous anaesthetic agents. It should be given by slow continuous injection and NOT as a rapid dose.**

Following induction of anaesthesia with Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection, anaesthesia may be maintained using either Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection or a gaseous anaesthetic agent.

Where maintenance of anaesthesia is with Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection for procedures lasting more than 5 to 10 minutes, a needle or catheter can be left in the vein, and small amounts of Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection injected subsequently to maintain the required level and duration of anaesthesia. Recovery is not prolonged significantly following incremental doses of Alfaxan-CD RTU.

By the intravenous route: Animals, especially dogs, may undergo a short period of apnoea on induction using Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection by the intravenous route. This can be avoided by inducing anaesthesia by slow continuous intravenous injection over 20 to 30 seconds, while assessing the degree of anaesthesia achieved. The animal may then be intubated and maintained on Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection or a gaseous anaesthetic agent.

Induction of Anaesthesia:

The induction dose is calculated as follows:

Dogs: 1mg to 2mg alfaxalone (0.1 mL to 0.2 mL) per kilogram bodyweight.

Cats: 2mg to 5mg alfaxalone (0.2 mL to 0.5 mL) per kilogram bodyweight.

Maintenance of Anaesthesia with Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection:

Following induction of anaesthesia, and depending on the length of time and depth of anaesthesia required, incremental doses of Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection may be given up to a total dose of 5mg to 12 mg (0.5 mL to 1.2 mL) per kg bodyweight. A total dose of 5mg to 7 mg (0.5 mL to 0.7 mL) per kg bodyweight would be expected to provide sufficient anaesthesia for short surgical procedures such as castration. For longer procedures, a total dose of 8mg to 12mg (0.8 mL to 1.2 mL) per kg bodyweight may be required.

By the intramuscular route - Cats: The dose is calculated at 5mg to 10mg (0.5 mL to 1.0 mL) per kg bodyweight. Deep intramuscular injection is essential if constancy in the response is to be achieved. The suggested site of injection is the quadriceps muscle mass.

A dosage of 10mg (1 mL) per kg is expected to induce deep sedation or light anaesthesia sufficient to allow venepuncture or the practice of some minor surgical techniques such as the drainage of an abscess or the repair of small superficial wounds.

The suitability of a combined technique of anaesthesia involving both the intramuscular and intravenous routes of administration is a question of personal choice. Sedation is induced using an intramuscular dose of approximately 10mg (1 mL) per kg and maintained by supplementary intravenous doses as required by the surgeon.

Precautions and Contra-Indications

During recovery, it is preferable that animals are not handled or disturbed. This may lead to paddling, minor muscle twitching or movements that are more violent which, while better avoided, are clinically insignificant.

As with all general anaesthetic agents:

- It is advisable to ensure that the patient has been fasted before receiving the anaesthetic.
- Special care should be taken with aged animals, where there is stress associated with conditions such as disease or shock or in caesarian section.
- Following induction of anaesthesia, the use of an endotracheal tube is recommended to maintain airway patency.
- It is advisable to administer supplemental oxygen during induction and maintenance of anaesthesia.
- respiratory and cardiac embarrassment may occur - ventilation of the lungs with oxygen should be considered and adrenaline may be indicated in such circumstances.

PACK: Presented in 10 mL and 20 mL vials.

FIRST AID: If poisoning occurs contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone Australia 13 11 26. New Zealand 0800 764 766.

STORAGE: Store below 30°C (Room Temperature). Protect from light. Alfaxan-CD RTU Anaesthetic Injection contains no preservatives. Solution should be removed from the vial using aseptic technique. Contents of broached vials should preferably be used within 24 hours, but may be stored if necessary at 4°C for up to 7 days provided contamination is avoided. Do not use broached vials if the solution is not clear, colourless and free from particulate matter.

DISPOSAL: Dispose of empty container by wrapping with paper and placing in garbage.



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