

Alfaxan-CD RTU

Composition:

Each ml solution contains: Alphaxalone 10 mg

Action:

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

In surgical anaesthesia produced by Alfaxan-CD RTU, 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 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 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 does not cause tissue irritation after perivascular or intramuscular injection.

Interaction:

The use of premedicants will reduce the dose of Alfaxan-CD RTU required and may prolong the duration of anaesthesia and the recovery time. Alfaxan-CD RTU has been safely used in combination with the premedicants acepromazine, atropine, methadone, butorphenol 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.

Indication:

Induction and maintenance of sedation and anaesthesia in dogs and cats.

Dosage/Administration:

Give by slow continuous injection and NOT as a rapid dose. Following induction of anaesthesia with Alfaxan-CD RTU, anaesthesia may be maintained using either Alfaxan-CD RTU or a gaseous anaesthetic agent. Where maintenance of anaesthesia is with Alfaxan-CD RTU for procedures lasting more than five to ten minutes, a needle or catheter can be left in the vein, and small amounts of Alfaxan-CD RTU injected subsequently to maintain the required level and duration of anaesthesia. Recovery is not prolonged significantly following incremental doses of Alfaxan-CD RTU.

Intravenous route. Animals, especially dogs, may undergo a short period of apnoea on induction using Alfaxan-CD RTU by the intravenous route. This can be avoided by inducing anaesthesia with 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 or a gaseous

anaesthetic agent. Induction. Dogs: alphaxalone 1 to 2 mg (0.1 to 0.2 mL)/kg bodyweight. Cats: alphaxalone 2 to 5 mg (0.2 to 0.5 mL)/kg bodyweight. Maintenance. Following induction of anaesthesia, and depending on the length of time and depth of anaesthesia required, incremental doses of Alfaxan-CD RTU may be given up to a total dose of 5 to 12 mg (0.5 to 1.2 mL)/kg bodyweight. A total dose of 5 to 7 mg (0.5 to 0.7 mL)/kg bodyweight would be expected to provide sufficient anaesthesia for short surgical procedures such as castration. For longer procedures, a total dose of 8 to 12 mg (0.8 to 1.2 mL)/kg bodyweight may be required.

Intramuscular route (cats). The dose is calculated at 5 to 10 mg (0.5 to 1.0 mL)/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 10 mg (1 mL)/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 10 mg (1 mL)/kg and maintained by supplementary intravenous doses as required by the surgeon.

Precaution:

Alfaxan CD RTU should be given by slow continuous injection, not as a rapid dose. Special care should be taken with aged animals, when there is stress associated with conditions such as disease or shock, and in animals undergoing caesarean section.

As with all general anaesthetic agents respiratory and cardiac embarrassment may occur. Ventilation of the lungs with oxygen should be considered and adrenaline may be indicated in such circumstances.

As with all anaesthetic agents, it is advisable to ensure that the animal has been fasted before receiving Alfaxan-CD RTU.

During recovery, it is preferable that animals are not handled or disturbed.

Disturbance during this period may lead to paddling and minor muscle twitching but these, while better avoided if possible, are clinically insignificant. Violent movements may be stimulated by rough handling.

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.

Contraindication:

Use in combination with other intravenous anaesthetic agents.

Package:

10 ml vial

Storage:

Store below 30 deg. C (room temperature). Protect from light. 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 deg. C for up to seven days provided contamination is avoided. Do not use broached vials if the solution is not clear, colourless and free from particulate matter.

For animal treatment only