

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 traquilization 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. Detectible 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	vary depending on dose and treatment duration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Equron, 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clip and brush/wash skin before application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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