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Doxycycline

(Doxybactin (c,d), Ronaxan (c,d)) POM-V

- Formulations

Oral: 20 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, 400 mg tablets. A paste or liquid is available on a named patient basis.VSP

- Action

Time-dependent antimicrobial agent inhibiting protein synthesis at the initiation step by interacting with the 30S ribosomal subunit.

- Use
 - Antibacterial (including spirochaetes such as Helicobacter and Campylobacter), antirickettsial, antimycoplasmal (e.g. Mycoplasma haemofelis) and antichlamydial activity.
 - It is the drug of choice to treat feline chlamydiosis; treatment may be required for 3–4 weeks in cats.
 - It is also an adjunctive treatment for canine heartworm disease as it eliminates the symbiont Wolbachia.

It is not affected by, and does not affect, renal function as it is excreted in faeces, and is therefore recommended when tetracyclines are indicated in animals with renal impairment. Being extremely lipid-soluble, it penetrates well into prostatic fluid and bronchial secretions. Administer with food.

- DOSES

Classified as category D (Prudence) by the EMA. Dogs, Cats

10 mg/kg p.o. q24h with food.

For heartworm treatment: 10 mg/kg p.o. q12h with food for 4 weeks.

- Adverse reactions

Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. Oesophagitis and oesophageal ulceration may develop; administer with food or a water bolus to reduce this risk. Administration during tooth development may lead to

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discoloration of the teeth, although the risk is less than with other tetracyclines. Doxycycline hyclate (the salt used in the authorized form of doxycycline in the UK) produces an acidic solution, while doxycycline monohydrate is much less acidic. Doxycycline monohydrate has been associated with reduced development of oesophageal ulceration in humans.

- Contraindications

Do not administer to pregnant animals. Do not administer if there is evidence of oesophagitis or dysphagia.

- Drug interactions

Absorption of doxycycline is reduced by antacids, calcium, magnesium and iron salts, although the effect is less marked than that seen with water-soluble tetracyclines. Phenobarbital and phenytoin may increase its metabolism, thus decreasing plasma levels.

- Safety and handling

Normal precautions should be observed.

Extract from BSAVA Formulary March 2025



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