

Hyaluronate sodium

(hy-al-yoo-ron-nate)

Category: Mucopolysaccharide

Other Names for this Medication: Legend®, Hylartin® V, Hyvisc®, Equoron®, Synacid®, Hyalovet®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 10 mg/mL solution in 2 mL & 4 mL single-dose vials and 20 mL multi-dose vial. **Human:** None.

This information sheet does not contain all available information for this medication. It is to help answer commonly asked questions and help you give the medication safely and effectively to your animal. If you have other questions or need more information about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

Key Information

- ▶ Hyaluronate naturally occurs in joint fluid.
- ▶ Must be administered to horses as an injection (shot) into the vein or joint; not effective when given by mouth.
- ▶ May also be used to treat joint inflammation in dogs.
- ▶ Injected once per week for up to 3 treatments.
- ▶ Stall rest is recommended after injection; normal activity should resume gradually.
- ▶ Side effects are unlikely.

How is this medication useful?

Hyaluronate sodium (hyaluronic acid) is approved by the FDA for use in horses the treatment of joint inflammation associated with osteoarthritis in the carpus (knee) or fetlock. The FDA allows veterinarians to prescribe and use products containing this drug in different species or for other conditions in certain situations. You and your veterinarian can discuss why this drug is the most appropriate choice.

What should I tell my veterinarian to see if this medication can be safely given?

Many things might affect how well this drug will work in your animal. Be sure to discuss the following with your veterinarian so together you can make the best treatment decisions.

- ▶ Other drugs can interact with hyaluronate sodium, so be sure to tell your veterinarian and pharmacist what medications (including vitamins, supplements, or herbal therapies) you give your animal, including the amount and time you give each.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian about any conditions or diseases your animal may have now or has had in the past.
- ▶ If your animal has been treated for the same disease or condition in the past, tell your veterinarian about the treatment and how well it did or didn't work.
- ▶ If your animal is pregnant or nursing, talk to your veterinarian about the risks of using this drug.
- ▶ Tell your veterinarian and pharmacist about any medication side effects (including allergic reactions, lack of appetite, diarrhea, itching, hair loss) your animal has developed in the past.

When should this medication not be used or be used very carefully?

No drug is 100% safe in all patients, but your veterinarian will discuss with you any specific concerns about using this drug in your animal.

This drug **SHOULD NOT** be used in patients:

- ▶ That are allergic to it.
- ▶ With a joint infection.
- ▶ That are suddenly lame from a broken bone.

This drug should be used **WITH CAUTION** in patients:

- ▶ That are pregnant or nursing or being used for breeding; safe use in these situations has not been proven.

If your animal has any of these conditions, talk to your veterinarian about the potential risks versus benefits.

What are the side effects of this medication?

Side effects from hyaluronic acid are unlikely.

Side effects that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Lethargy or depression.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see either of these signs unless they are severe, worsen, or continue to be a problem. Contact your veterinarian if this happens.

Side effects that may be serious or indicate a serious problem:

- ▶ Increased discomfort or inflammation in the joint.
- ▶ Lameness or worsening lameness.

If you see any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

If my animal gets too much of this medication (an overdose), what should I do?

Oral overdoses are unlikely to cause significant problems. If you witness or suspect an overdose and your animal is having problems, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include: **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435) and **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661); a consultation fee is charged for these services.

How should this medication be given?

For this medication to work, give it exactly as your veterinarian has prescribed. It's a good idea to always check the prescription label to be sure you are giving the drug correctly.

- ▶ Do not attempt these injections on your own.
- ▶ Your veterinarian will administer hyaluronate injections directly into the affected joint(s).
- ▶ Before the injection, your veterinarian will need to shave and sterilize the area.
- ▶ Frequency of administration can vary based on your animal's condition.
- ▶ Be sure you understand how often your animal will need this treatment, as there may be important reasons to continue its use.

What should I do if I miss giving a dose of this medication?

If you miss a scheduled appointment for this medicine to be given, reschedule for as soon as you remember, but if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give it at the next scheduled time. After that, return to the regular dosing schedule. Do not double-up or give extra doses.

How should I store this medication?

- ▶ Store this medication in the original prescription bottle at room temperature. Do not store at temperatures above 104° F (40° C).
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

Can handling this medication be hazardous to me, my family, or other animals?

There are no specific precautions required when handling this medication unless you are allergic to it. Wash your hands after handling any medication.

How should I dispose of this medication if I don't use it all?

- ▶ Do not flush this medication down the toilet or wash it down the sink. If a community drug "take-back" program is available, use this option. If there is no take-back program, mix the drug with coffee grounds or cat litter (to make it undesirable to children and animals and unrecognizable to people who might go through your trash), place the mixture in a sealable plastic bag to keep it from leaking out, and throw the bag out with the regular trash.
- ▶ Do not save leftover medication from single-use vials for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Because of the multiple products and formulations available, do not switch brands or formulations without first checking with your veterinarian, as the dosing may be different.
- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain animal competitions. Check rules and regulations before entering your animal in a competition while this medication is being administered.

If you have any other questions or concerns about this medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.