

Pergolide (Horses)

(per-go-lide)

Category: Dopamine Agonist

Other Names for this Medication: Prascend®, Permax®

Common Dosage Forms: Veterinary: 1 mg tablets. 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

- ▶ Pergolide is used in horses with Cushing's disease (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction [PPID]). This drug does not cure the disease but helps to control signs related to the condition.
- ▶ This drug may require several weeks to show improvement.
- ▶ Do not crush tablets.
- ▶ Prascend® should not be administered by persons who have had adverse reactions to ergotamine or other ergot derivatives.
- ▶ Pregnant or lactating women should wear gloves when administering this product.
- ▶ Most common side effect is reduced or lack of appetite.
- ▶ Other side effects to watch for include unpredictable behavior, colic, and signs of laminitis.

How is this medication useful?

Pergolide is used for the control of signs associated with Cushing's disease in horses.

The FDA (U.S. Food & Drug Administration) has approved this drug for use in horses. 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 best choice for your horse.

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 cause problems when taken with pergolide, 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 horses:

- ▶ That are allergic to it or other ergot-derivatives (eg, bromocriptine)
- ▶ That are to be used for human consumption.

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

- ▶ That are pregnant, lactating, or used for breeding; safe use in these animals has not yet been evaluated.

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 that usually are not serious include:

- ▶ Reduced appetite (most common). This effect usually improves within a month of starting the drug.
- ▶ Loose stools.
- ▶ Weight loss.
- ▶ Lack of energy.
- ▶ Aggression (threatening behavior or actions).
- ▶ Twitching of the tongue, facial muscles, and head.

You don't have to be overly concerned if you see any 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:

- ▶ Colic.
- ▶ Laminitis, lameness.
- ▶ Collapse (fainting).

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?

If you witness or suspect an overdose, contact your veterinarian or an animal poison control center for further advice. Animal poison control centers that are open 24 hours a day include **Pet Poison HELPLINE** (855-764-7661) and **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center** (888-426-4435); 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.

- ▶ Pergolide may be given either with food or on an empty stomach.
- ▶ Compounded liquid forms of this medication must be measured carefully. Your veterinarian or pharmacist can help by providing special measuring spoons or syringes.
- ▶ If you have difficulty getting your horse to accept the medication, contact your veterinarian or pharmacist for tips to help with dosing and reducing the stress of medication time.
- ▶ Patients are usually on this medication for an extended period, often for the rest of their lives. Give this medication according to the label's instructions and obtain refills as needed. Before stopping this medication, talk to your veterinarian, 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 dose, give it when 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 or an approved dosage reminder container (ie, pill minder) at or below 77°F (25°C).
- ▶ If your veterinarian or pharmacist has made (compounded) a special formulation for your animal, follow the storage recommendations and expiration date for the product.
- ▶ Keep away from children and other animals.

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

Pregnant women and people who are allergic to this drug should be very careful not to accidentally take it. People who have had adverse reactions to ergotamine or other ergot derivatives should not administer pergolide tablets. Pregnant or lactating women should wear gloves when administering this product. Pergolide tablets may cause eye irritation, an irritating smell, or headache when tablets are split or crushed. Do not crush tablets due to the possibility for human exposure. Consult a physician in cases of accidental ingestion by humans.

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 left over medication for future use or give it to others to use.

What other information is important for this medication?

- ▶ Use of this drug may not be allowed in certain equine 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.