**DEPO-MEDROL®**

**methylprednisolone acetate**

**sterile aqueous suspension**

**20 mg per mL and 40 mg per mL**

**Per Use in Animals Only**

**Carboxyl (18°C)**: Thevial contains drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**DESCRIPTION**

These preparations are not recommended for intravenous or subcutaneous use in horses, but they may be used for intramuscular administration and are effective when used in this manner. Each 20 mL of the 1 mg/mL preparation contains: 24 mg prednisolone acetate and 4 mg methylprednisolone acetate. Each 20 mL of the 2 mg/mL preparation contains: 48 mg prednisolone acetate and 8 mg methylprednisolone acetate. The preparation contains 0.02% sodium metabisulfite as an antioxidant.

**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

**Pharmacokinetics and Bioavailability**

Methylprednisolone acetate is an anti-inflammatory steroid synthesized and developed in the United States. It is a white-to-light yellow, odorless, crystalline powder. It is slightly more stable than prednisolone, the respective "half-life" value for the two steroids is approximately 4.5 hours and 2 hours. Methylprednisolone acetate is slightly less active than prednisolone, the respective "half-life" value for the two steroids is approximately 4.5 hours and 2 hours.

**Mechanism of Action**

Methylprednisolone acetate is a synthetic corticosteroid and possesses a high degree of anti-inflammatory and anti-proteinolytic activity. It has a high affinity for corticosteroid receptors, which are present in high concentrations in inflamed tissues. It exerts its anti-inflammatory effect by blocking the synthesis of mediators of inflammation (i.e., prostaglandins, leukotrienes, and histamines) and by inhibiting the release of inflammatory mediators (e.g., cytokines and leukotrienes). It also decreases the adherence of inflammatory cells to blood vessels and reduces the migration of leukocytes into inflamed tissues. In addition, methylprednisolone acetate decreases the production of cytokines, which are key mediators of inflammation. It also reduces the production of enzymes that mediate inflammation, such as phospholipase A2, which is involved in the synthesis of prostaglandins.

**Indications and Usage**

Methylprednisolone acetate is indicated for the treatment of inflammatory and allergic conditions in dogs and cats. It is also indicated for the treatment of certain musculoskeletal conditions in dogs.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- **Hypersensitivity to methylprednisolone acetate or other corticosteroids**
- **Active infectious disease**
- **Pre-existing heart disease**
- **Known peptic ulcer disease**
- **Known tuberculosis**

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Local reactions at the injection site may occur, including pain, swelling, and erythema. Systemic reactions are rare but may include changes in appetite, weight loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst, increased urination, polyuria, and polydipsia. The most common systemic reactions are: anorexia, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, and polyuria. Other systemic reactions include: hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, and increased blood pressure. Systemic reactions may also include: hypercalcemia, hyperkalemia, hypokalemia, and hypernatremia. The most common systemic reactions are: anorexia, weight loss, vomiting, diarrhea, and polyuria. Other systemic reactions include: hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, and increased blood pressure.

**WARNINGS**

- **Surveillance for Myocardial Infarction and Stroke**
- **Surveillance for Osteoporosis and Fractures**
- **Surveillance for Gastrointestinal Lesions**
- **Surveillance for Hypertension and Hyperglycemia**

**PRESERVATIVES**

The DEPO-MEDROL Sterile Aqueous Suspension contains an anti-inflammatory agent. The preservative used in the preparation is povidone-iodine, which may cause skin irritation in some individuals. In addition, the preservative may cause allergic reactions in some individuals. It is recommended that the preservative be used with caution in individuals who have a history of skin irritation or allergic reactions to povidone-iodine.

**SIDE EFFECTS**

Methylprednisolone acetate may cause systemic effects, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and anorexia. It may also cause changes in appetite, weight loss, or polyuria.

**PHARMACODYNAMICS**

Methylprednisolone acetate is absorbed rapidly from the injection site and reaches peak plasma concentrations within 30 minutes to 2 hours. The drug is distributed throughout the body and is metabolized by the liver and excreted in the urine. The elimination half-life of methylprednisolone acetate is approximately 4.5 hours in dogs and 2 hours in cats.

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The dosage of methylprednisolone acetate is determined by the severity of the condition and the response of the animal. The dosage of the drug may be adjusted based on clinical response and serum concentrations of the drug. The dosage of the drug may be increased by 50% in cases of severe inflammatory conditions. The dosage of the drug may be decreased by 50% in cases of mild inflammatory conditions.

**PHARMACOLOGY**

Methylprednisolone acetate is a synthetic corticosteroid that is used to treat a variety of inflammatory conditions in animals. It is available as a sterile aqueous suspension for intramuscular injection. It is also available for oral administration as a suspension for intramuscular and intravenous injection.

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Depo-Medrol
methylprednisolone acetate
sterile aqueous suspension

Intrasynovial (intra-articular) injections may occasionally result in an increased localized inflammatory response. The action of DEPO-MEDROL Sterile Aqueous Suspension injected intrasynovially appears to be additive to that of systemic corticosteroids. Local effects characterize the systemic administration of adrenal steroids have not been observed. In a few instances systemic effects may occur following intrasynovial administration, and this possibility is always a concern.

Procedure for Intrasynovial Injection. The anatomy of the area to be injected should be understood so that the needle will be entered from the proper direction and opposite to the site of injection. It is well to aspirate the needle into the synovial cavity. This is to be done with the syringe and needle in place. Then reinsert the needle if necessary and determine that large blood vessels or nerves are avoided. The injection site is located where the synovial cavity is most superficial. The area is prepared for aseptic injection by the removal of hair and cleansing of the skin with alcohol or Mercresin® tincture. A sterile 18- to 21-gauge needle for horses, 20- to 22-gauge needle for dogs, on a dry syringe is quickly inserted into the synovial space and a small sterile sterile dressing.

Areas not suitable for injection are those that are anatomically inaccessible such as spinal joints and those like the sacroiliac joints, which are devoid of synovial space. The single intrasynovial dose depends on the size of the part, which corresponds to the number of structures injected and the higher the total dose employed.

Depo-Medrol (methylprednisolone acetate) is a slightly soluble ester of methylprednisolone. It is capable of producing a more prolonged and sustained effect than the suspension at doses of 20 mg, 40 mg, and 80 mg for intrasynovial injection. The suspension is suitable for horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. It should be used with caution in the presence of diabetes mellitus. Local reactions to the suspension are usually minimal and are manifested by transient pain or swelling at the site of injection. The duration of relief varies, but averages three to four weeks, with a range of one to five or more weeks. Injections of methylprednisolone acetate can be used for maintenance therapy in the treatment of chronic or terminal conditions. The single intrasynovial dose depends on the size of the animal. The interval between repeated injections depends on the duration of relief obtained.

HOW SUPPLIED
Sterile Powder containing prednisolone sodium succinate is indicated.

NADA 12-204, Approved by FDA

Deemed nonproprietary.

Store at controlled room temperature 20° to 25° C (68° to 77° F).

DEPO-MEDROL Sterile Aqueous Suspension, 20 mg/mL is available in 20 mL vials, 5 mL vials, and 1 mL vials.

No other systemic effects have been noted. However, it is possible that mild and transient improvement of structures other than those injected have been reported. No other systemic effects have been noted. However, it is possible that mild and transient improvement of structures other than those injected have been reported. In a few instances systemic effects may occur following intrasynovial administration, and this possibility is always a concern.

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The ability of physiotherapy and corrective procedures to effect suppression of inflammation in one or a few peripheral structures when spread with one or a few peripheral structures actively inflamed; (3) systemic therapy with cortisone, hydrocortisone, or corticotropin is contraindicated. Local corticosteroid therapy has been employed.

If the underlying disease process, and whenever possible comprehensive therapy including physiotherapy and orthopedic correction should be employed. The interval between repeated injections depends on the duration of relief obtained.

Contents should be used within 12 weeks after the first dose is removed.

The duration of relief obtained.

If failures occur when injections into the synovial spaces are certain, as determined by aspiration of fluid, repeated injections are usually futile. Local therapy does not alter the underlying disease process, and whenever possible comprehensive therapy including physiotherapy and orthopedic correction should be employed. The interval between repeated injections depends on the duration of relief obtained.

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