

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Metacam 0.5 mg/ml oral suspension for cats and guinea pigs

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each ml contains:

Active substance:

Meloxicam: 0.5 mg (equivalent to 0.017 mg per drop)

Excipients:

Qualitative composition of excipients and other constituents	Quantitative composition if that information is essential for proper administration of the veterinary medicinal product
Sodium benzoate	1.5 mg (equivalent to 0.05 mg per drop)
Sorbitol, liquid	
Glycerol	
Saccharin sodium	
Xylitol	
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrate	
Silica, colloidal anhydrous	
Hydroxyethylcellulose	
Citric acid	
Honey aroma	
Water, purified	

Yellowish viscous oral suspension with a green tinge.

3. CLINICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Target species

Cats and guinea pigs

3.2 Indications for use for each target species

Cats:

Alleviation of mild to moderate post-operative pain and inflammation following surgical procedures in cats, e.g. orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery.

Alleviation of pain and inflammation in acute and chronic musculo-skeletal disorders in cats.

Guinea pigs:

Alleviation of mild to moderate post-operative pain associated with soft tissue surgery such as male castration.

3.3 Contraindications

Do not use in cats suffering from gastrointestinal disorders such as irritation or haemorrhage, impaired hepatic, cardiac or renal function and haemorrhagic disorders.

Do not use in cases of hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.

Do not use in cats less than 6 weeks of age.

Do not use in guinea pigs less than 4 weeks of age.

3.4 Special warnings

None.

3.5 Special precautions for use

Special precautions for safe use in the target species:

Avoid use in any dehydrated, hypovolaemic or hypotensive animal, as there is a potential risk of renal toxicity.

Post-operative use in cats and guinea pigs:

In case additional pain relief is required, multimodal pain therapy should be considered.

Chronic musculoskeletal disorders in cats:

Response to long-term therapy should be monitored at regular intervals by a veterinary surgeon.

Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals:

People with known hypersensitivity to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) should avoid contact with the veterinary medicinal product.

In case of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice immediately and show the package leaflet or the label to the physician.

This veterinary medicinal product can cause eye irritation. In case of contact with the eyes, immediately rinse thoroughly with water.

Special precautions for the protection of the environment:

Not applicable.

3.6 Adverse events

Cats:

Very rare (< 1 animal in 10,000 animals treated, including isolated reports).	Appetite loss ¹ , lethargy ¹ Vomiting ¹ , diarrhoea ¹ , blood in faeces ^{1,2} , haemorrhagic diarrhoea ¹ , haematemesis ¹ , gastric ulcer ¹ , small intestine ulcer ¹ Elevated liver enzymes ¹ Renal failure ¹
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¹ These adverse events occur generally within the first treatment week and are in most cases transient and disappear following termination of the treatment but in very rare cases may be serious or fatal.

² Occult.

Guinea pigs: None

If adverse reactions occur, treatment should be discontinued and the advice of a veterinarian should be sought.

Reporting adverse events is important. It allows continuous safety monitoring of a veterinary medicinal product. Reports should be sent, preferably via a veterinarian, to either the marketing authorisation holder or its local representative or the national competent authority via the national reporting system. See the package leaflet for respective contact details.

3.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

Pregnancy and lactation

The safety of the veterinary medicinal product has not been established during pregnancy and lactation. Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals.

3.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Other NSAIDs, diuretics, anticoagulant, aminoglycoside antibiotics and substances with high protein binding may compete for binding and thus lead to toxic effects. The veterinary medicinal product must not be administered in conjunction with other NSAIDs or glucocorticosteroids. Concurrent administration of potential nephrotoxic drugs should be avoided.

In cats, pre-treatment with anti-inflammatory substances other than Metacam solution for injection at a single dose of 0.2 mg/kg may result in additional or increased adverse effects and accordingly a treatment-free period with such veterinary medicinal products should be observed for at least 24 hours before commencement of treatment. The treatment-free period, however, should take into account the pharmacological properties of the products used previously.

3.9 Administration routes and dosage

Oral use.

Cats:

Post-operative pain and inflammation following surgical procedures:

After initial treatment with Metacam solution for injection with a starting dosage of 0.2 mg/kg, continue treatment 24 hours later with Metacam 0.5 mg/ml oral suspension for cats and guinea pigs at a dosage of 0.05 mg meloxicam/kg body weight. The oral follow-up dose may be administered once daily (at 24-hour intervals) for up to four days.

Acute musculo-skeletal disorders:

Initial treatment is a single oral dose of 0.2 mg meloxicam/kg body weight on the first day. Treatment is to be continued once daily by oral administration (at 24-hour intervals) at a dose of 0.05 mg meloxicam/kg body weight for as long as acute pain and inflammation persist.

Chronic musculo-skeletal disorders:

Initial treatment is a single oral dose of 0.1 mg meloxicam/kg body weight on the first day. Treatment is to be continued once daily by oral administration (at 24-hour intervals) at a maintenance dose of 0.05 mg meloxicam/kg body weight. A clinical response is normally seen within 7 days. Treatment should be discontinued after 14 days at the latest if no clinical improvement is apparent.

Dosing procedure using the drop dispenser of the bottle:

Dose of 0.2 mg meloxicam/kg body weight: 12 drops/kg body weight

Dose of 0.1 mg meloxicam/kg body weight: 6 drops/kg body weight

Dose of 0.05 mg meloxicam/kg body weight: 3 drops/kg body weight.

Dosing procedure using the measuring syringe:

The syringe fits onto the drop dispenser of the bottle and has a kg-body weight scale which corresponds to dose of 0.05 mg meloxicam/kg body weight. Thus for initiation of the treatment of chronic musculo-skeletal disorders on the first day, twice the maintenance volume will be required. For initiation of the treatment of acute musculo-skeletal disorders on the first day, 4 times the maintenance volume will be required.

To be administered orally either mixed with food or directly into the mouth.

The suspension can be given using the drop dispenser of the bottle for cats of any body weight. Alternatively and for cats with a body weight of at least 2 kg, the measuring syringe provided in the package can be used.

The recommended dose should not be exceeded.

Guinea pigs:

Post-operative pain associated with soft tissue surgery:

Initial treatment is a single oral dose of 0.2 mg meloxicam/kg body weight on day 1 (pre-surgery). Treatment is to be continued once daily by oral administration (at 24-hours intervals) at a dose of 0.1 mg meloxicam/kg body weight on day 2 to day 3 (post-surgery).

The dose can, at the discretion of the veterinarian, be titrated up to 0.5 mg/kg in individual cases. The safety of doses exceeding 0.6 mg/kg has, however, not been evaluated in guinea pigs.

The suspension should be given directly into the mouth using a standard 1 ml syringe graduated with ml scale and 0.01 ml increments.

Dose of 0.2 mg meloxicam/kg body weight: 0.4 ml/kg body weight

Dose of 0.1 mg meloxicam/kg body weight: 0.2 ml/kg body weight

Use a small container (e.g. a teaspoon) and drop the veterinary medicinal product into the container (it is advised to dispense a few drops more than required into the small container). Use a standard 1 ml syringe to draw up the veterinary medicinal product according to the bodyweight of the guinea pig. Administer the veterinary medicinal product with the syringe directly into the mouth of the guinea pig. Wash the small container with water and dry prior to the next use.

Do not use the cat syringe with the kg-body weight scale and the cat pictogram for guinea pigs.

Particular care should be taken with regard to the accuracy of dosing. To ensure a correct dosage, body weight should be determined as accurately as possible. The use of suitably calibrated measuring equipment is recommended. Shake well before use.

Avoid introduction of contamination during use.

3.10 Symptoms of overdose (and where applicable, emergency procedures and antidotes)

Meloxicam has a narrow therapeutic safety margin in cats and clinical signs of overdose may be seen at relatively small overdose levels.

In case of overdose, adverse reactions, as listed in section 3.6, are expected to be more severe and more frequent. In case of overdose symptomatic treatment should be initiated.

In guinea pigs, an overdose of 0.6 mg/kg body weight administered during 3 days followed by a dose of 0.3 mg/kg during 6 additional days did not cause adverse events typical for meloxicam. The safety of doses exceeding 0.6 mg/kg has not been evaluated in guinea pigs.

3.11 Special restrictions for use and special conditions for use, including restrictions on the use of antimicrobial and antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products in order to limit the risk of development of resistance

Not applicable.

3.12 Withdrawal periods

Not applicable.

4. PHARMACOLOGICAL INFORMATION

4.1 ATCvet code:

QM01AC06

4.2 Pharmacodynamics

Meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) of the oxicam class which acts by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, thereby exerting anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-exudative and antipyretic effects. It reduces leukocyte infiltration into the inflamed tissue. To a minor extent it also inhibits collagen-induced thrombocyte aggregation. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies demonstrated that meloxicam inhibits cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) to a greater extent than cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1).

4.3 Pharmacokinetics

Cats:

Absorption

If the animal is fasted when dosed, the maximal plasma concentrations are obtained after approximately 3 hours. If the animal is fed at the time of dosing, the absorption may be slightly delayed.

Distribution

There is a linear relationship between the dose administered and plasma concentration observed in the therapeutic dose range. Approximately 97 % of meloxicam is bound to plasma proteins.

Metabolism

Meloxicam is predominantly found in plasma and is also a major biliary excretion product whereas urine contains only traces of the parent compound. Five major metabolites were detected all having been shown to be pharmacologically inactive. Meloxicam is metabolised to an alcohol, an acid derivative and to several polar metabolites. As for other species investigated, the main pathway of meloxicam biotransformation in cat is oxidation.

Elimination

Meloxicam is eliminated with a half-life of 24 hours. The detection of metabolites from the parent compound in urine and faeces, but not in plasma is indicative for their rapid excretion. 21 % of the recovered dose is eliminated in urine (2 % as unchanged meloxicam, 19 % as metabolites) and 79 % in the faeces (49 % as unchanged meloxicam, 30 % as metabolites).

Guinea pigs:

No data available.

5. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

5.1 Major incompatibilities

None known.

5.2 Shelf life

Shelf life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale:

3 ml bottle: 2 years

10 ml, 15 ml and 30 ml bottle: 3 years.

Shelf life after first opening the immediate packaging:

3 ml bottle: 14 days

10 ml, 15 ml and 30 ml bottle: 6 months.

5.3 Special precautions for storage

This veterinary medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

5.4 Nature and composition of immediate packaging

Polypropylene bottle containing 3 ml with a polyethylene dropper and a tamper-proof child-resistant closure.

Polyethylene bottle containing 10 ml, 15 ml or 30 ml with a polyethylene dropper and a tamper-proof child-resistant closure.

Each bottle is packed in a cardboard box and is equipped with a 1 ml polypropylene measuring syringe which has a kg-body weight scale for cats (2 to 10 kg) and a pictogram showing a cat.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

5.5 Special precautions for the disposal of unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from the use of such products

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater.

Use take-back schemes for the disposal of any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived thereof in accordance with local requirements and with any national collection systems applicable to the veterinary medicinal product concerned.

6. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

Vm 04491/5014

8. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION

20 April 2007

9. DATE OF THE LAST REVISION OF THE SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

February 2025

10. CLASSIFICATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Veterinary medicinal product subject to prescription.

Find more product information by searching for the 'Product Information Database' on www.gov.uk.

Gavin Hall
Approved: 16 April 2025