

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

### **1. NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Nelio 20 mg Tablet for Dogs

### **2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each tablet contains

**Active substance:**

Benazepril hydrochloride 20 mg

**Excipients:**

<b>Qualitative composition of excipients and other constituents</b>
Pig liver flavour
Yeast
Lactose monohydrate
Croscarmellose sodium
Anhydrous colloidal silica
Hydrogenated castor oil
Microcrystalline cellulose

Clover shaped scored beige tablet, divisible into halves or quarters.

### **3. CLINICAL INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Target species**

Dogs

#### **3.2 Indications for use for each target species**

Dogs:

- Treatment of congestive heart failure.

#### **3.3 Contraindications**

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

Do not use in cases of hypotension, hypovolaemia, hyponatraemia or acute renal failure.

Do not use in cases of cardiac output failure due to aortic or pulmonary stenosis.  
Do not use during pregnancy or lactation.

### 3.4 Special warnings

None.

### 3.5 Special precautions for use

#### Special precautions for safe use in the target species:

No evidence of renal toxicity of the veterinary medicinal product has been observed during clinical trials, however, as is routine in cases of chronic kidney disease, it is recommended to monitor plasma creatinine, urea and erythrocyte counts during therapy.

The safety and efficacy of the product has not been examined in dogs weighing less than 2.5 kg.

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

Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors have been found to affect the unborn child during pregnancy in humans. Pregnant women should take special care to avoid accidental oral exposure.

Wash hands after use.

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

#### Special precautions for the protection of the environment:

Not applicable.

### 3.6 Adverse events

Dogs:

Very rare ( $<1$ animal / 10,000 animals treated, including isolated reports):	Vomiting <sup>1</sup> Incoordination <sup>1</sup> Fatigue <sup>1</sup> Elevated creatinine <sup>2</sup>
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<sup>1</sup>Transient

<sup>2</sup>At the start of therapy. A moderate increase in plasma creatinine concentrations following administration of ACE inhibitors is compatible with the reduction in glomerular hypertension induced by these agents, and is therefore not necessarily a reason to stop therapy in the absence of other signs.

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 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

Do not use during pregnancy or lactation.

The safety of the product has not been established in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs. In dogs benazepril reduced the weight of the ovaries and the ovarian ducts when given at a daily dose of 10 mg/kg for 52 weeks. Embryotoxic effects (foetal urinary tract malformation) were seen in trials with laboratory animals (rats) at maternally nontoxic doses.

### 3.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

In dogs with congestive heart failure, this product has been given in combination with digoxin, diuretics, pimobendan and anti-arrhythmic veterinary medicinal products without demonstrable adverse interactions.

In humans, the combination of ACE inhibitors and Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) can lead to reduced anti-hypertensive efficacy or impaired renal function. The combination of the product and other anti-hypertensive agents (e.g. calcium channel blockers,  $\beta$ -blockers or diuretics), anaesthetics or sedatives may lead to additive hypotensive effects. Therefore, concurrent use of NSAIDs or other medications with a hypotensive effect should be considered with care. Renal function and signs of hypotension (lethargy, weakness etc) should be monitored closely and treated as necessary.

Interactions with potassium preserving diuretics like spironolactone, triamterene or amiloride cannot be ruled out. It is recommended to monitor plasma potassium levels when using the product in combination with a potassium sparing diuretic because of the risk of hyperkalaemia.

### 3.9 Administration routes and dosage

The product should be given orally once daily, with or without food. The duration of treatment is unlimited.

Dogs:

The product should be administered orally at a minimum dose of 0.25 mg (range 0.25-0.5) benazepril hydrochloride/kg body weight once daily, according to the following table:

Weight of dog (kg)	Standard dose	Double dose
>20-40	0.5 tablet	1 tablet
>40-60	0.75 tablet	1 ½ tablets
>60-80	1 tablet	2 tablets

The dose may be doubled, still administered once daily, to a minimum dose of 0.5 mg/kg (range 0.5-1.0), if judged clinically necessary and advised by the veterinary surgeon.

In case of use of quarters or half tablets: Put the remaining quantity of the tablet back into the blister pocket and use for the next administration.

The tablets are flavoured and may be taken spontaneously by dogs, but can also be administered directly into the dog's mouth or be given with food if necessary.

Instruction on how to divide the tablet: Put the tablet on an even surface, with its scored side facing down (convex face up). With the tip of the forefinger, exert slight vertical pressure on the middle of the tablet to break it along its width into halves. Then, in order to obtain quarters, exert slight pressure on the middle of one half with the forefinger to break it into two parts.

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

The product reduced erythrocyte counts in normal dogs when dosed at 10 mg/kg body weight once daily for 12 months but this effect was not observed at the recommended dose during clinical trials in dogs.

Transient reversible hypotension may occur in cases of accidental overdose. Therapy should consist of intravenous infusion with warm isotonic saline.

### **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:**

QC09AA07

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Cardiovascular system, ACE Inhibitor, plain, Benazepril.

### **4.2 Pharmacodynamics**

Benazepril hydrochloride is a prodrug hydrolysed in vivo to its active metabolite, benazeprilat.

Benazeprilat is a highly potent and selective inhibitor of ACE, thus preventing the conversion of inactive angiotensin I to active angiotensin II and thereby also reducing synthesis of aldosterone.

Therefore, it blocks effects mediated by angiotensin II and aldosterone, including vasoconstriction of both arteries and veins, retention of sodium and water by the kidney and remodelling effects (including pathological cardiac hypertrophy and degenerative renal changes).

The product causes long-lasting inhibition of plasma ACE activity in dogs, with more than 95% inhibition at peak effect and significant activity (>80%) persisting 24 hours after dosing.

The product reduces the blood pressure and volume load on the heart in dogs with congestive heart failure.

### **4.3 Pharmacokinetics**

After oral administration of benazepril hydrochloride, peak levels of benazepril are attained rapidly (T<sub>max</sub> 0.5 hour) and decline quickly as the active substance is partially metabolised by liver enzymes to benazeprilat. The systemic bioavailability is incomplete (~13%) due to incomplete absorption (38%) and first pass metabolism. Peak benazeprilat concentrations (C<sub>max</sub> of 30 ng/ml after a dose of 0.5 mg/kg benazepril hydrochloride) are achieved with a T<sub>max</sub> of 1.5 hours. Benazeprilat concentrations decline biphasically: the initial fast phase (t<sub>1/2</sub>=1.7 hours) represents elimination of free drug, while the terminal phase (t<sub>1/2</sub>=19 hours) reflects the release of benazeprilat that was bound to ACE, mainly in the tissues.

Benazepril and benazeprilat are extensively bound to plasma proteins (85-90%), and in tissues are found mainly in the liver and kidney.

There is no significant difference in the pharmacokinetics of benazeprilat when benazepril hydrochloride is administered to fed or fasted dogs. Repeated administration of the product leads to slight bioaccumulation of benazeprilat (R=1.47 with 0.5 mg/kg), steady state being achieved within a few days (4 days).

Benazeprilat is excreted 54% via the biliary and 46% via the urinary route. The clearance of benazeprilat is not affected in dogs with impaired renal function and therefore no adjustment of the product dose is required in cases of renal insufficiency.

## **5. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **5.1 Major incompatibilities**

None known.

### **5.2 Shelf life**

Shelf life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale: 2 years.  
Shelf life of divisions of the tablets: 72 hours.

### **5.3 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 25°C

Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Any part-used tablet should be returned to the opened blister and used within 72 hours.

#### **5.4 Nature and composition of immediate packaging**

Polyamide-Aluminium-Polyvinylchloride/Aluminium heat-sealed blister strip of 10 tablets

or

Polyamide-Aluminium-Desiccant/Aluminium heat-sealed blister pack 10 tablets per strip.

Cardboard box with 1 blister strip of 10 tablets

Cardboard box with 5 blister strips of 10 tablets

Cardboard box with 10 blister strips of 10 tablets

Cardboard box with 14 blister strips of 10 tablets

Cardboard box with 18 blister strips of 10 tablets

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**

Ceva Sante Animale

### **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS**

Vm 14966/3020

Vm 14966/5021

### **8. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION**

07 September 2009

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

October 2025

### **10. CLASSIFICATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

Veterinary medicinal product subject to prescription.

Detailed information on this veterinary medicinal product is available in the Union Product Database.  
(<https://medicines.health.europa.eu/veterinary>).

*Gavin Hall*  
Approved: 01 October 2025