

BHA NOTICE – DANTROLENE

This is a notice issued to all licenced Trainers and prescribing Veterinary Surgeons by the British Horseracing Authority regarding the use of Dantrolene.

Dantrolene capsules have a 48 hours' detection time based on the licensed human preparation Dantrium capsules given orally at a dose of 500mg daily for 3 days. A Detection Time is not equivalent to a Withdrawal Time¹.

We are aware there are Extemporaneous Preparations (also known as “veterinary specials”) available on the market for Dantrolene. These are products that do not hold a Marketing Authorisation (MA) and as such they have not been assessed against the same standards of quality, safety (for the target animal, user, consumer and environment) and efficacy as authorised veterinary medicines. Despite this they can legally be prescribed, supplied and used under the last step of the prescribing cascade for veterinary medicines.

The UK Government statement for Extemporaneous Preparations provides that these carry a higher risk (safety) than authorised medicines and this should be considered when prescribing them. There should be a detailed conversation between the treating Veterinary Surgeon and Trainer before Extemporaneous Preparations of Dantrolene are prescribed and then administered.

A recent administration study carried out at the CRS has shown an early indication that formulated paste may show a different pharmacokinetic profile and bioavailability to Dantrium capsules that **could result in an extended detection time**. Further work is ongoing and as such caution should be used when prescribing and using these formulated products particularly in respect of calculating an appropriate withdrawal time. Similar indications have been observed in other formulated preparations.

¹ 'Detection Times' are not synonymous with 'Withdrawal Times'. To decide a Withdrawal Time an adequate safety margin must be added to the stated Detection Time. This safety margin must be chosen by the treating veterinarian using his/her professional judgement and discretion, to allow for biological, pharmaceutical and pharmacological variation, so as to minimise the possibility that a positive finding will occur on the day of racing.

It is incumbent on the veterinary surgeon to exercise full professional judgement, taking into account all relevant circumstances, and the most up to date information, before advising when a horse may race after drug treatment.

For further information on detection/withdrawal times please see the guidance on the IFHA website which can be found [here](#).