

Benazecare 5 and 20

Introduction



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Presentation

Benazecare 5

Light yellow oval, divisible film-coated tablets which are scored on both sides. Each tablet contains 5mg benazepril hydrochloride.

Benazecare 20

Pink oval, divisible film-coated tablets which are scored on both sides. Each tablet contains 20mg benazepril hydrochloride.

Uses

Benazecare is indicated for the treatment of heart failure in dogs.

The active ingredient is benazepril. After oral administration, benazepril is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and hydrolysed into benazeprilat, a highly specific and potent inhibitor of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE). Benazeprilat produces significant inhibition of plasma ACE activity for more than 24 hours after a single dose in dogs. Inhibition of ACE leads to a reduced conversion of inactive angiotensin I into angiotensin II and therefore reduction in the effects mediated by angiotensin II, including vasoconstriction of both arteries and veins and retention of sodium and water by the kidney. In dogs with heart failure, benazeprilat lowers the blood pressure and volume loading effect on the heart.

Benazeprilat leads to a significant extension of the life span of dogs with heart failure and also improves clinical signs, notably reduction in coughing and improvement of the quality of life. In contrast with other ACE inhibitors, benazeprilat is excreted equally by both biliary and urinary routes in dogs and therefore no adjustment of the dose of Benazecare is necessary in the treatment of cases with renal insufficiency

Dosage and administration

The recommended dose is 0.25-0.5mg benazepril hydrochloride/kg body weight, to be given orally once daily according to the following regime:

BENAZECARE 5

Weight	Standard dose	Double dose
5-10Kg	0.5 tablet/day	1 tablet/day
11-20Kg	1 tablet/day	2 tablets/day

BENAZECARE 20

Weight	Standard dose	Double dose
21-40Kg	0.5 tablet/day	1 tablet/day
41-80Kg	1 tablet/day	2 tablets/day

Benazecare can be given with or without food. The duration of treatment is unlimited. The dose may be doubled, still administered once daily, if judged clinically necessary and advised by the veterinary surgeon. When the 10mg dose is required, the veterinary surgeon should consider administering two 5mg tablets to limit the use of half tablets.

Benazepril may be given with digoxin, diuretics and anti-arrhythmic drugs as necessary.

Contra-indications, warnings, etc

For animal treatment only.

For oral use only.

Wash hands after use.

In man, the combination of ACE inhibitors and NSAIDS can lead to reduced antihypertensive efficacy or impaired renal function. Therefore the concurrent use of NSAIDS should be considered with care. In dogs, transient signs of hypotension such as tiredness or dizziness may appear in rare cases. Interactions with potassium preserving drugs, like spironolactone, triamterene or amiloride cannot be ruled out. It is recommended to monitor plasma potassium levels when using benazepril in combination with a potassium sparing diuretic. As with other ACE inhibitors, the use of hypotensive medicinal products or anaesthetics with a hypotensive effect may add to the anti-hypertensive effect of benazepril. Benazecare is not recommended for use in breeding dogs, pregnant or lactating bitches. As is routine in cases of renal insufficiency, it is recommended to monitor plasma urea and creatinine concentrations.

Do not use in any dog that has evidence of cardiac output failure due to aortic stenosis.

ACE inhibitors have been found to be teratogenic during the second and third trimester in other species.

Pharmaceutical precautions

Store in a dry place. Do not store above 25°C. Return any halved tablet to the blister pack and use within 2 days. Store the blister strip within the outer box. Keep out of reach of children.

Legal category

POM-V

Packaging Quantities

Plastic blister packs each containing 7 tablets. Individual cartons contain 2 blisters.

Disposal: Dispose of used packaging in the household refuse. Unused product should be returned to the veterinary surgery.

Further information

No evidence of renal toxicity to benazepril has been observed in dogs during clinical trials. The biliary excretion of benazepril means there is little risk of bioaccumulation in dogs with impaired renal function.

Marketing authorisation number

Benazecare 5: VM 10347/4021.

Benazecare 20: VM 10347/4022.