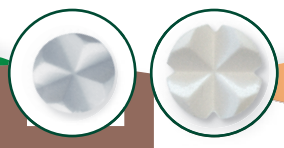


Forthyron[®] 200/400 microgram

Tablets for dogs

Levothyroxine sodium



euovet
Animal Health

Insert

Forthyron 200 microgram, tablets for dogs Forthyron 400 microgram, tablets for dogs

Name of the veterinary medicinal product:

Forthyron 200 microgram, tablets for dogs
Forthyron 400 microgram, tablets for dogs
Levothyroxine sodium

Composition:

Active substance per tablet:
Levothyroxine sodium 200 microgram or 400 microgram

Indications:

For the treatment of hypothyroidism (under production of thyroid hormone) in dogs.

Contraindications:

Do not use in dogs suffering from uncorrected adrenal insufficiency.

Adverse reactions:

Restoration of physical activity may unmask or intensify other problems, such as arthritis. Adverse effects of thyroid hormones are generally associated with excessive dosage and correspond to the signs of excess thyroid hormone e.g. increased thirst and urination, weight loss without a loss of appetite and panting.

If you notice any serious effects or other effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your veterinary surgeon.

Target species:

Dogs

Dosage for each species, route(s) and method of administration:

Dosage and administration

The recommended starting dosage of levothyroxine sodium is 10 µg/kg bodyweight orally every 12 hours. Because of variability in absorption and metabolism, the dosage may require alterations before a complete clinical response is observed. The initial dosage and frequency of administration are merely a starting point. Therapy has to be highly individualised and tailored to the requirements of the individual dog, in accordance with monitoring by the veterinarian.

In the dog, absorption of levothyroxine sodium may be affected by the presence of food. The timing of treatment and its relation to feeding should therefore be kept consistent from day to day.

To break a tablet accurately and easily, place the tablet score side up and apply pressure with your thumb.



When initiating dosing of dogs weighing less than 5 kg bodyweight, a quarter of one 200 µg tablet should be administered once daily. Such cases should be monitored carefully by your veterinarian.

Special storage precautions:

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not store above 25 °C
Tablet portions can be kept for 4 days in the blister pack.
Do not use after the expiry date stated on the carton and the blister after Exp (month / year).

Special warnings:

Tell your veterinarian if your dog is suffering from concurrent illnesses, particularly Addison's disease, diabetes mellitus, heart disease or kidney or liver disease.

Use during pregnancy:

Tell your veterinarian either if you intend to breed with your dog or your dog is pregnant.

Interactions:

Tell your veterinarian if your dog is already being treated with any other veterinary medicinal product as this may affect the treatment.

Overdose:

In case of overdose, contact your veterinarian

Operator warnings:

Wash hands after administering the tablets. Pregnant women should handle the product with caution.

Disposal advice:

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with national requirements.

Information for the treating veterinarian.

The diagnosis hypothyroidism should be confirmed with appropriate tests.

Therapeutic monitoring:

To adequately monitor therapy, trough values (just prior to treatment) and peak values (about three hours after dosing) of plasma T4 can be measured. In adequately dosed dogs peak plasma concentration of T4 should be in the high-normal range (approximately 30 to 47 nmol/l) and trough values should be above approximately 19 nmol/l. If T4 levels are outside this range the levothyroxine sodium dose can be adjusted in 50 to 200 µg increments until the patient is clinically euthyroid and serum T4 is within the reference range. Plasma T4 levels can be retested two weeks after change of dosage, but clinical improvement is an equally important factor in determining individual dosage and this will take four to eight weeks. When the optimum replacement dose has been attained, clinical and biochemical monitoring may be performed every 6 – 12 months.

Special precautions for use in animals:

The increased demand for oxygen delivery to peripheral tissues plus the chronotropic effects of levothyroxine sodium may place undue stress on a poorly functioning heart, causing signs of heart failure.

Hypothyroid dogs suffering from hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease) have a decreased ability to metabolise levothyroxine sodium and therefore an increased risk of thyrotoxicosis. Dogs with concurrent hypoadrenocorticism and hypothyroidism should be stabilised with glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid treatment prior to treatment with levothyroxine sodium to avoid precipitating a hypoadrenocortical crisis. After this, thyroid tests should be repeated, then gradual introduction of the levothyroxine sodium therapy, starting with 25% of the normal dose, increasing by 25% increments every fortnight until optimal stabilisation is achieved is recommended.

Gradual introduction of therapy is also recommended for dogs with other concurrent illnesses; particularly diabetes mellitus and kidney or liver disease.

Interactions:

A variety of drugs may impair plasma or tissue binding of the thyroid hormones or alter thyroid hormone metabolism (e.g. barbiturates, antacids, anabolic steroids, diazepam, furosemide, mitotane, phenylbutazone, phenytoin, propranolol, large doses of salicylates and sulphonamides).

An increase in the dosage of digitalis may be necessary in a patient that had previously compensated congestive heart failure and that is placed on thyroid hormone supplementation. Estrogens may increase thyroid requirements.

Ketamine may cause tachycardia and hypertension when used in patients receiving thyroid hormones. The effect of catecholamines and sympathomimetics is increased by levothyroxine. Following treatment of hypothyroidism in dogs with concurrent diabetes, careful monitoring of diabetic control is recommended.

Most dogs on long term high-dose, daily glucocorticoid therapy will have very low or undetectable serum T4 concentrations, as well as subnormal T3 values.

Overdose:

Following administration of overdoses signs of toxicity relating to increased levels of thyroid hormone could occur. Toxicity as a side effect of mild oversupplementation is uncommon in dogs, owing to the canine ability to break down and excrete thyroid hormones. Single overdose up to 3-6x the recommended dose does not pose a threat even to the healthy dog with normal thyroid function, and no actions are necessary.

In case of accidental intake of large amounts of tablets absorption can be decreased by induction of vomiting and oral administration of both activated charcoal and magnesium sulphate once.

Following long term over-supplementation, clinical signs of excess thyroid hormone such as increased thirst and urination, panting, weight loss without loss of appetite, and either or both increased heart rate and nervousness may theoretically occur. The presence of these signs should result in evaluation of T4 serum concentrations to confirm the diagnosis, and immediate discontinuance of the supplementation. Once the signs have abated (days to weeks), the thyroid dosage has been reviewed, and the animal has fully recovered, a lower dosage may be instituted, with the animal being monitored closely.

Pregnancy

The safety of use of the product during pregnancy has not been established through special reproduction studies. However, levothyroxine is produced naturally in the body and thyroid hormones are essential for the developing foetus, especially during the first period of pregnancy. Hypothyroidism during pregnancy may result in major complications such as foetal death and a poor outcome at birth. Maintenance dose of levothyroxine sodium may need adjustment during pregnancy. Pregnant bitches should therefore be monitored on a regular base from conception until several weeks after delivery by the veterinarian.

Date on which the package leaflet was last approved:

March 2006

Other information:

UK:

Forthyron 200 microgram tablet: Vm 16849/4005

Forthyron 400 microgram tablet: Vm 16849/4006

[POM-V] Prescription Only Medicine

IE:

Forthyron 200 microgram tablet: VPA 10989/52/1

Forthyron 400 microgram tablet: VPA 10989/52/2

[POM] Prescription Only Medicine

Veterinary medicinal product authorised for use in UK and Ireland.

Marketing authorisation holder:

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