

Generic name: Detomidine

Common name: Dormosedan

Drug Class: Non-opioid sedative analgesic, α_2 -Agonist

Indications: Faster, longer, stronger sedation than all other sedatives; pain relief for colic; pre-med for anesthesia; standing restraint as better at preventing movement

Action: α_2 -Agonists act on CNS to reduce production of excitatory neurotransmitters thereby mediating pain response; suppression of sympathetic nervous system causes cardiac, respiratory, and antidiuretic effects

Administration: IV – 0.02-0.04 mg/kg (.2-1cc/1000lb horse); onset in 2-5 min; duration 60-90 min

IM – double dose of IV; onset in 10-20 min; duration 90+ min

Sublingual – 0.04mg/kg; onset in 40 min; duration 90-180 min

* dosing is dependent on horse as some are more resistant to sedation

Side effects: lowered heart rate; increased blood pressure; reduced GI mobility; excess sweating; ataxia

Contraindications: should not be used in horses with heart issues as can cause arrhythmia; should not be used as pre-med for ketamine as can cause violent anesthetic recoveries

Other notes: lethal to humans – can be absorbed through skin and mucous membranes; combination therapy with opioid causes greater effect than either alone; has a reversal agent

Generic name: Firocoxib

Common name: Equioxx

Drug Class: Coxib-class, non-narcotic, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)

Indications: Control of pain and inflammation due to osteoarthritis; control of post-operative pain and inflammation associated with soft tissue and orthopedic surgery

Action: COX-2 inhibitor that reduces production of prostaglandins responsible for pain and inflammation; highly selective so spares COX-1 needed for regular bodily function

Administration: IV – 0.09 mg/kg; duration 24 hrs; can be administered for up to 5 days
Oral – 0.01 mg/kg; duration 24 hrs; can be administered for up to 14 days

* IV can be followed by continued dosing with oral paste but total days should not exceed 14

Side effects: can cause GI issues – selectivity of COX-2 inhibitor causes less issues than other NSAIDs

Contraindications: should not be used in horses with sensitivity to firocoxib; should not be used in conjunction with other NSAIDs or systemic corticosteroids

Other notes: chewable tablet Previcox is approved for use in dogs but can be used off label in horses