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Vectormune FP ILT *(fowlpox and avian infectious laryngotracheitis vaccine (live, recombinant))*

An overview of Vectormune FP ILT and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Vectormune FP ILT and what is it used for?

Vectormune FP ILT is a veterinary vaccine used in chickens to reduce skin lesions due to fowlpox (FP) and to reduce the clinical signs and tracheal (windpipe) lesions due to avian infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT).

Vectormune FP ILT contains the active substance live fowlpox virus which has been modified to produce two specific proteins from the avian infectious laryngotracheitis virus.

How is Vectormune FP ILT used?

The medicine can only be obtained with a prescription.

Vectormune FP ILT is given once from 8 weeks of age and not later than 4 weeks before the onset of lay. It is given by inserting the two-pronged applicator (supplied with the vaccine) from beneath through the wing web, taking care not to damage blood vessels.

Protection begins 3 weeks after vaccination, and it is expected to last 34 weeks against FP and 57 weeks against avian ILT.

For further information, see the package leaflet or contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

How does Vectormune FP ILT work?

Vaccines work by preparing the immune system (the body's natural defences) to defend the body against specific diseases. Vectormune FP ILT contains a live fowlpox virus that has been modified to produce small amounts of proteins of avian infectious laryngotracheitis virus. The virus in the vaccine is not expected to cause disease.

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When a chicken is given the vaccine, its immune system recognises the virus and proteins in the vaccine as foreign and makes antibodies against them. In future if the chicken comes into contact with the virus and virus proteins, these antibodies, together with other components of the immune system, will be able to quickly kill the infecting viruses. This will help protect the chickens against FP and ILT.

What benefits of Vectormune FP ILT have been shown in studies?

No outbreaks of FP or ILT occurred during 3 field studies. In all groups vaccinated with Vectormune FP ILT, development of a small nodule or scab at the injection site confirmed take of the vaccine in 92–100% of animals.

In one study, field-vaccinated animals were exposed to fowlpox virus and infectious laryngotracheitis virus at 23 or 28 weeks of age. The study indicated that use of Vectormune FP ILT under field conditions reduced clinical signs of FP and reduced clinical signs and tracheal damage due to ILT virus.

A number of other studies contributed to information on when protection starts and how long it lasts.

What are the risks associated with Vectormune FP ILT?

The most common side effects with Vectormune FP ILT (which may affect more than 1 in 10 animals) are small swelling or scabs typical of fowlpox vaccine take, which usually disappear within 14 days after vaccination.

For the full list of restrictions for Vectormune FP ILT, see the package leaflet.

What are the precautions for the person who gives the medicine or comes into contact with the animal?

In case of accidental self-injection, medical advice should be sought immediately and the package leaflet or label shown to the doctor.

What is the withdrawal period in food-producing animals?

The withdrawal period is the time required after administration of a medicine before an animal can be slaughtered and the meat used for human consumption. It is also the time required after administration of a medicine before eggs may be used for human consumption.

The withdrawal period for meat and eggs from chickens vaccinated with Vectormune FP ILT is 'zero' days, which means there is no mandatory waiting time.

Why is Vectormune FP ILT approved?

The European Medicines Agency decided that Vectormune FP ILT's benefits are greater than its risks and it can be authorised for use in the EU.

Other information about Vectormune FP ILT?

Vectormune FP ILT received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 9 December 2020.

Further information on Vectormune FP ILT can be found on the Agency's website: ema.europa.eu/medicines/veterinary/EPAR/vectormune-fp-ilt

This overview was last updated in 03-2021.