European Medicines Agency
Veterinary Medicines and Inspections

1 October 2009
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COMMITTEE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR VETERINARY USE (CVMP)

OPINION FOLLOWING AN ARTICLE 35[1] REFERRAL FOR

Injectable veterinary medicinal products containing ivermectin that are indicated for use in cattle at dose of 200 µg ivermectin per kg bodyweight

International Non-Proprietary Name (INN)**:** Ivermectin

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ivermectin belongs to the macrocyclic lactone class of endectocides with activity against a wide rage of internal and external parasites. Injectable veterinary medicinal products containing ivermectin, either as a single active substance or in combination with a second active substance are indicated for use in cattle for the treatment of endoparasitic and ectoparasitic infestations.

National Marketing Authorisations for injectable products containing ivermectin for use in cattle have been granted in all the Member States of the European Union via different authorisation procedures (mutual recognition procedures or national procedures) and under various legal bases.

Due to concerns that the difference in withdrawal periods established across the European Union for injectable veterinary medicinal products containing ivermectin which are indicated for use in cattle and with a dose of 200µg ivermectin/kg bodyweight may present a potential serious risk to human health, the United Kingdom referred the matter to the EMEA on 14 December 2007, under Article 35 of Directive 2001/82/EC. The CVMP was requested to give its opinion on the matter.

The referral procedure started on 16 January 2008. The Committee appointed Dr G. J. Schefferlie as rapporteur and Dr J. G. Beechinor, Prof C. Friis, Prof R. Kroker and Dr B. Urbain as co-rapporteurs. Further to the resignation of Prof R. Kroker as CVMP member, Dr C. Ibrahim was appointed to replace him and took over the co-rapporteurship.

On 21 May 2008 the EMEA received a total of 19 written explanations from the Marketing Authorisation Holders (either as a group of or individual Marketing Authorisation Holders). The submitted information concerned 173 of the 293 Marketing Authorisations involved in this referral procedure.

On 4 June 2008 the National Competent Authorities of the Member States were requested to provide the missing information for the outstanding 120 Marketing Authorisations. Eighteen Member States responded and submitted information concerning 103 of the outstanding 120 Marketing Authorisations.

On 17 September 2008 the CVMP considered that there were still issues with regard to some products which needed further clarification and therefore the Committee requested the relevant Marketing Authorisation Holders to address the outstanding issues in writing. Written explanations were provided by the Marketing Authorisation Holders on 13 November 2008.

[1] Article 35 of Directive 2001/82/EC, as amended.

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On 9 December 2008 and 14 January 2009 two Marketing Authorisation Holders provided oral explanations at their request.

Based on the evaluation of the currently available data and the rapporteurs' assessment, the CVMP considered that a single withdrawal period of 49 days should be established for all concerned injectable products for cattle containing ivermectin. Therefore, the Committee adopted an opinion on 11 February 2009 recommending the variation of the existing Marketing Authorisations in accordance with the recommended amendments to the Summary of Product Characteristics.

On 25 February 2009, Norbrook Laboratories Ltd, notified the EMEA of its intention to request the re-examination of the CVMP opinion of 11 February 2009.

During its 10-12 March 2009 meeting, the CVMP, appointed Dr A. Holm as rapporteur and Dr M. Holzhauser-Alberti as co-rapporteur for the re-examination of the above mentioned opinion.

The detailed grounds for the re-examination were submitted by Norbrook Laboratories Ltd on 14 April 2009. The re-examination procedure started on 15 April 2009. Oral explanations were given on 12 May 2009.

Based on the evaluation of the currently available data and the rapporteurs' assessment, the CVMP considered that its opinion of 11 February 2009 should be revised. The Committee confirmed that a withdrawal period of 49 days should be established for all concerned injectable products for cattle containing ivermectin as a single active substance. The withdrawal period of 49 days for cattle would also apply to all concerned injectable products containing ivermectin in combination with closantel as a second active substance. With regard to the products containing ivermectin in combination with clorsulon as a second active substance a withdrawal period of 66 days for cattle was recommended. Therefore, the Committee adopted by written procedure an opinion on 5 June 2009 recommending the variation the existing Marketing Authorisations in line with the proposed amendments of the Summary of Product Characteristics, labelling and package leaflet.

The list of product names concerned is given in Annex I. The scientific conclusions are provided in Annex II, together with the amended Summary of Product Characteristics, package leaflet and label in the Annex III.

The final opinion was converted into a Decision by the European Commission on 1 October 2009.