



COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

FOLIC ACID

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Folic acid (pteroylglutamic acid, N-[4-[[[(2-amino-1,4-dihydro-4-oxo-6-pteridiny)]-methyl] amino]benzoyl]-L-glutamic acid) is a member of the B vitamins group. In the body it is an essential component in the synthesis of purines and pyrimidines, and therefore DNA synthesis.
2. In veterinary medicine folic acid is occasionally used for the prevention of macrocytic anemia in chickens, especially after prolonged administration of sulfonamides. The applied doses are less than 150 µg/kg in clinically deficient breeders.
3. Folic acid is naturally occurring in several sources of human and animal food, particularly in fresh vegetables, liver, kidney, mushrooms and yeast as well as green leaves and grasses. Therefore, it can be concluded that the normal human diet already contains folic acid. Also, it can be concluded that the normal animal feed contains folic acid.

Conclusions and recommendation

Having considered the criteria laid down by the Committee for the inclusion of substances in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 and in particular that:

- folic acid is used only for occasional treatment of individual animals,
- folic acid is considered a normal component of human food,

the Committee considers that there is no need to establish an MRL for folic acid and recommends its inclusion in Annex II of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

Pharmacologically active substance(s)	Animal species	Other provisions
Folic acid	All food producing species	