



COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

POTASSIUM GLUCURONATE

SUMMARY REPORT

1. Potassium glucuronate is used to conjugate toxins in diarrhoea in pigs. It is administered by the oral route at a dose of 8 g per animal. The equivalent dose in mg/kg bw per day was not provided.
2. The potassium cation is an essential electrolyte that is important for the maintenance of intracellular osmotic pressure and for the maintenance of cell membrane potentials, particularly in electrically excitable tissues. It is a normal component of the diet and is particularly abundant in fruit and vegetables. The recommended daily intake varies from 350-1275 mg in children to 1875 and 5625 mg in adults. In the United Kingdom, the reference nutrient intake (RNI) is 3.5 g/day for adults.
3. The potassium ion itself possesses almost no toxicity; any toxicity of the salts is associated with the anion. Glucuronic acid is found in a wide range of plants and animals. It is a sugar and one of the components of polysaccharides. In the liver, it forms glycosidic links with toxic hydroxyl-containing substances, such as phenols, as part of the detoxification process. The glucuronides formed are excreted in urine.
4. Potassium glucuronate is well absorbed after oral administration to humans. Potassium is excreted mainly by the kidneys; the capacity of the kidneys to conserve potassium is poor and urinary excretion continues even when there is severe bodily depletion.

Conclusions and recommendation

Considering that:

- potassium glucuronate is used in individual animals, on an infrequent basis;
- both potassium and glucuronic acid are normal components of the diet;
- compared with the intake from other dietary sources, the veterinary medicinal use of potassium glucuronate should not result in a significant increase in consumer intake;

the Committee concludes that there is no need to establish an MRL for potassium glucuronate 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
Potassium glucuronate	All food producing species	