



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Activyl Tick Plus (*indoxacarb / permethrin*)

An overview of Activyl Tick Plus and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Activyl Tick Plus and what is it used for?

Activyl Tick Plus is a veterinary medicine used in dogs to treat flea and tick infestations. Activyl Tick Plus can also be used as a repellent (a substance that deters insects from approaching and settling) against sand flies (*Phlebotomus perniciosus*) that is active for up to 3 weeks.

Activyl Tick Plus contains the active substances indoxacarb and permethrin.

For further information, see the package leaflet.

How is Activyl Tick Plus used?

The medicine, available as a spot-on solution, is given as a single application to the dog's skin. The solution is supplied in pipettes filled with the appropriate amounts of indoxacarb and permethrin for dogs of various weights. For very small and small dogs, the full content of a pipette appropriate for the dog's weight is applied to the skin between the shoulder blades, after parting the fur. For larger dogs, the content can be applied in two (medium dogs), three (large dogs), or four (very large dogs) different spots along the back from the shoulders to the base of the tail. The medicine can be obtained without a prescription.

For more information about using Activyl Tick Plus, see the package leaflet or contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

How does Activyl Tick Plus work?

The active substances in Activyl Tick Plus, indoxacarb and permethrin, are ectoparasiticides, which kill parasites such as fleas and ticks that may be found on the skin or in the fur of animals. After application, indoxacarb and permethrin are ingested by the fleas and ticks (indoxacarb is converted in their gut into an active form). Together, the active form of indoxacarb and permethrin interfere with the parasites' nervous system, causing paralysis and death. Permethrin also acts as a repellent and so helps prevent sand flies from settling and taking a blood meal.



What benefits of Activyl Tick Plus have been shown in studies?

The effectiveness of Activyl Tick Plus against fleas and ticks was investigated in laboratory studies and in three field studies. One field study involved 230 dogs where Activyl Tick Plus was compared with fipronil (another ectoparasiticide), where the medicines were given every four weeks for 12 weeks. The effectiveness was measured by counting the number of fleas and ticks at fortnightly intervals. Both treatments reduced flea and tick numbers to almost zero by the end of the study period.

The effectiveness of Activyl Tick Plus against sand flies was shown in two laboratory studies. The main measure of effectiveness was the repellent effect against sand flies as measured by the number of fed female sand flies. In one study, Activyl Tick Plus showed repellent activity of above 95% at 1 day after treatment, falling to 92% at 3 weeks after treatment. In the other study, Activyl Tick Plus showed repellent activity of 98% at 2 days after treatment falling to 86% at 3 weeks.

What are the risks associated with Activyl Tick Plus?

The most common side effects seen with Activyl Tick Plus (which may affect up to 1 in 10 animals) are transitory scratching, erythema (reddening of the skin) and hair loss at the application site. These effects usually resolve without treatment. The application of Activyl Tick Plus may produce a temporary oily appearance or hair clumping at the application site, or a dry white residue. This is normal and will generally resolve within a couple of days.

Activyl Tick Plus must not be used in cats as adverse reactions and even death can occur. It must not be used in dogs which are known to be hypersensitive (allergic) to indoxacarb, permethrin or to any of the other ingredients.

Fleas, ticks and sand flies might still be able to transmit any diseases which they may be carrying.

For the full list of restrictions, see the package leaflet.

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

People should not eat, drink or smoke while handling the medicine. Protective gloves should be worn when handling or applying Activyl Tick Plus to dogs. Hands should be washed immediately after use and any product in contact with the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. People who are known to be hypersensitive to indoxacarb or permethrin should avoid contact with the product. If Activyl Tick Plus is accidentally spilled into eyes, it should be rinsed off with water. The medicine should be applied in a well-ventilated area and treated dogs should not be handled until the application site is dry. The medicine is highly flammable and should be kept away from possible sources of ignition. To protect children, the medicine should be kept in its sachet until use, and the used pipette should be disposed of immediately. On the day of treatment, children must not handle treated dogs and the dogs should not be allowed to sleep with their owners, especially children.

If adverse reactions occur, medical advice should be sought and the package leaflet shown to the doctor.

Why is Activyl Tick Plus authorised in the EU?

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

Other information about Activyl Tick Plus:

Activyl Tick Plus received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 9 January 2012.

Further information on Activyl Tick Plus can be found on the Agency's website: [ema.europa.eu/Find medicine/Veterinary medicines/European public assessment reports](http://ema.europa.eu/Find/medicine/Veterinary%20medicines/European%20public%20assessment%20reports).

This overview was last updated in March 2018.

Medicinal product no longer authorised