



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

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Evant (*avian coccidiosis vaccine, live*)

An overview of Evant and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Evant and what is it used for?

Evant is a veterinary vaccine used to protect chickens against coccidiosis caused by the coccidia parasites *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox* and *Eimeria tenella*. Coccidiosis is a disease of the gut which results in reduced growth, severe diarrhoea, reduced egg production and a high death rate. Infected birds shed disease spores (oocysts) in their faeces that can spread the infection.

The vaccine contains live attenuated (weakened) oocysts of *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima*, *Eimeria mitis*, *Eimeria praecox* and *Eimeria tenella*.

For more information, see the package leaflet.

How is Evant used?

Evant is available as a suspension and solvent and can only be obtained with a prescription. The vaccine is given to chicks from one day old. The vaccine suspension should be diluted with the solvent and water according to dosing instructions and sprayed on the birds so that each bird receives one dose. The birds ingest the vaccine when preening their feathers. Protection starts at 2 weeks after vaccination and lasts until 9 weeks after vaccination.

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

How does Evant work?

Evant is a vaccine. Vaccines work by 'teaching' the immune system (the body's natural defences) how to defend itself against a disease. The vaccine contains the oocysts of *Eimeria* species that have been weakened so that they cannot cause disease. When Evant is given to chickens, the animals' immune system recognises the *Eimeria* oocysts as foreign and makes defences against them. In the future if the animals are exposed to the same *Eimeria* species the immune system will be able to respond more quickly. This will help protect against coccidiosis.

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The vaccine solvent contains the adjuvant montanide IMS to enhance the immune response.

What benefits of Evant have been shown in studies?

Laboratory studies have shown that 1-day-old chicks vaccinated with Evant were protected against coccidiosis when exposed to each of the five *Eimeria* species at 2 weeks after vaccination and protection lasted 9 weeks after vaccination. These studies had a control group of chicks that received a dummy vaccination. The studies showed Evant reduced damage to the gut and oocysts in the faeces for each *Eimeria* species and that it reduced diarrhoea caused by *Eimeria acervulina*, *Eimeria maxima* and *Eimeria tenella*.

What are the risks associated with Evant?

There are no known side effects with Evant. 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?

Safety information has been included in the summary of product characteristics and the package leaflet for Evant, including the appropriate precautions to be followed by healthcare professionals and animal owners or keepers.

Hands and equipment should be washed and disinfected after use.

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 treated with Evant is 'zero' days, which means that there is no mandatory waiting time.

Why is Evant authorised in the EU?

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

Other information about Evant

Evant received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 5 February 2019.

Further information on Evant can be found on the Agency's website: ema.europa.eu/Find_medicine/veterinary/EPAR/evant.

This overview was last updated in December 2018.