Proteq West Nile (West Nile recombinant canarypox virus (vCP2017))

An overview of Proteq West Nile and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Proteq West Nile and what is it used for?

Proteq West Nile is a veterinary vaccine that contains West Nile recombinant canarypox virus (vCP2017). It is available as a suspension for injection.

Proteq West Nile is used to protect horses from 5 months of age against West Nile disease. West Nile disease is a mosquito-borne viral disease that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). The vaccine is used to reduce the number of horses with the West Nile virus in their blood (viraemia) or with clinical signs of the disease.

How is Proteq West Nile used?

The medicine can only be obtained with a prescription.

The vaccine is given to young horses as two injections into the neck muscles. The first injection is given from five months of age and the second injection is given four to six weeks later. Protection starts four weeks after the first injection and lasts for a year. The horses should be revaccinated every year.

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

How does Proteq West Nile work?

Proteq West Nile is a vaccine. Vaccines work by ‘teaching’ the immune system (the body’s natural defences) how to defend itself against a disease. The vaccine strain vCP2017 in Proteq West Nile is a ‘carrier’ canarypox virus that has been given a gene that makes it able to produce part of the West Nile virus, the proteins PreM and E. The canarypox viruses do not spread or multiply in the vaccinated horses.

When a horse is given the vaccine, the immune system recognises the West Nile proteins PreM and E as ‘foreign’ and makes antibodies against it. In the future, the immune system will be able to produce
antibodies more quickly when it is exposed to West Nile virus, and this helps to protect against mortality due to West Nile disease.

**What benefits of Proteq West Nile have been shown in studies?**

The vaccine was tested in nine laboratory studies in horses from five months of age. The main measure of effectiveness was based on the number of horses who had viraemia or clinical signs of West Nile disease. In all studies the vaccinated horses were compared with horses that were not vaccinated.

The studies showed that the vaccine prevents viraemia in horses and reduces clinical signs in horses infected with West Nile virus.

**What are the risks associated with Proteq West Nile?**

Horses vaccinated with Proteq West Nile may have a slightly raised body temperature (up to 1.5°C) lasting up to two days. They may also have a temporary swelling at the injection site which usually disappears within four days.

For the full list of side effects and restrictions of Proteq West Nile, 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 Proteq West Nile, including the appropriate precautions to be followed by healthcare professionals and animal owners or keepers.

If someone accidentally injects themselves with the medicine, the person should seek medical advice immediately and show the package leaflet or label to the doctor.

**What is the withdrawal period in food-producing animals?**

The withdrawal period is the time allowed after administration of the medicine and before the animal can be slaughtered and the meat used for human consumption. The withdrawal period for meat from horses vaccinated with Proteq West Nile is zero days, which means there is no mandatory waiting time.

**Why is Proteq West Nile authorised in the EU?**

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

**Other information about Proteq West Nile**

Proteq West Nile received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 5 August 2011.


This overview was last updated in 11-2020.