



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EMA/499081/2006
EMA/V/C/000085

Purevax RCPCh FeLV (*feline viral rhinotracheitis, feline chlamydiosis, feline panleucopenia (live attenuated), feline calicivirosis (inactivated) and FeLV recombinant Canarypox virus (vCP97) vaccine*)

An overview of Purevax RCPCh FeLV and why it is authorised in the EU

What is Purevax RCPCh FeLV and what is it used for?

Purevax RCPCh FeLV is a veterinary vaccine that is used to vaccinate cats from the age of 8 weeks against:

- feline viral rhinotracheitis (a flu-like illness caused by a herpesvirus),
- feline calicivirosis (a flu-like illness with inflammation of the mouth caused by a calicivirus),
- feline chlamydiosis (a flu-like illness caused by the bacterium *C. felis*),
- feline panleucopenia (a serious illness causing bloody diarrhoea caused by a parvovirus),
- feline leukaemia (an illness affecting the immune system caused by a retrovirus, feline leukaemia virus).

The vaccine helps to reduce the symptoms of the diseases. It can also prevent death due to panleucopenia and prevent FeLV from remaining in the blood.

Purevax RCPCh FeLV contains:

- attenuated (weakened) feline rhinotracheitis herpesvirus (FHV F2 strain),
- inactivated (killed) calicivirosis antigens (FCV 431 and G1 strains),
- attenuated *Chlamydomphila felis* (905 strain),
- attenuated feline panleucopenia virus (PLI IV),
- feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) recombinant canarypox virus (vCP97).

How is Purevax RCPCh FeLV used ?

Purevax RCPCh FeLV is available as a lyophilisate (freeze-dried pellet) and solvent that are made up into a suspension for injection. The vaccine is given as two doses injected under the skin. The first injection should be given in kittens aged at least eight weeks, with a second injection three to four weeks later. If the kitten has high levels of antibodies received from the mother in the womb and in the milk, the first vaccination should be delayed until 12 weeks of age. The cat should be revaccinated for all components one year after the first vaccination course, then every year for chlamydiosis and feline leukaemia, and every three years for rhinotracheitis, calicivirosis and panleucopenia.

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For more information on how to use Purevax RCPCh FeLV, see the package leaflet or contact your veterinarian or pharmacist.

How does Purevax RCPCh FeLV work?

Purevax RCPCh FeLV is a vaccine. Vaccines work by 'teaching' the immune system (the body's natural defences) how to defend itself against a disease. Purevax RCPCh FeLV contains small amounts of weakened or killed viruses and bacteria that cause feline viral rhinotracheitis, caliciviro-sis, chlamydiosis and panleucopenia. To protect against feline leukaemia, the vaccine contains two genes from the FeLV called env and gag, which have been inserted into another vector (carrier) virus called canarypox using 'recombinant DNA technology'. The canarypox viruses do not spread or multiply in the cat but they do produce proteins from the FeLV genes.

When a cat is given the vaccine, the immune system recognises the weakened or killed viruses, the FeLV proteins, and the weakened bacteria as 'foreign' and makes antibodies against them. In the future, the immune system will be able to produce antibodies more quickly when it is again exposed to the viruses or bacteria. The antibodies will help to protect against the diseases caused by these viruses or bacteria. When exposed to any of these viruses or bacteria later in life, the cat will either not become infected or have a much less serious infection.

What benefits of Purevax RCPCh FeLV have been shown in studies?

The effectiveness of Purevax RCPCh FeLV has been studied in several trials in laboratory conditions where cats were vaccinated and infected with herpesvirus, calicivirus, *C. felis*, parvovirus or leukaemia virus. In the field, the studies of Purevax RCPCh FeLV looked at the basic vaccination schedule (2 injections 3–4 weeks apart) and the booster vaccination. They included young and adult cats of various breeds, but not young kittens. The main measure of effectiveness was the level of antibodies in the blood against the viruses and bacteria in the vaccine, with the exception of the FeLV component, whose effectiveness in preventing infection had already been demonstrated in other studies.

In laboratory conditions, Purevax RCPCh FeLV was demonstrated to provide protection against the diseases listed above. In the field study of basic vaccination there was an increase in antibodies against feline rhinotracheitis herpesvirus, calicivirus infection, and feline panleucopenia viruses. It was not possible to detect a rise in antibodies against *C. felis* because of high levels of antibodies in the cats at the beginning of the study. In the study looking at booster vaccination, antibody levels against rhinotracheitis herpesvirus, calicivirus infection, feline panleucopenia and *C. felis* remained stable at a high level or increased slightly.

What is the risk associated with Purevax RCPCh FeLV?

The most common side effects with Purevax RCPCh FeLV (which may affect up to 1 in 10 animals) are temporary apathy (loss of interest in surroundings) and anorexia (loss of appetite), as well as hyperthermia (elevated body temperature) lasting for one or two days. There may be a local reaction at the injection site, with slight pain on touching, itching or oedema (swelling), which disappears within one or two weeks.

Purevax RCPCh FeLV should not be used in pregnant cats and during lactation.

For a full list of side effects and restrictions of Purevax RCPCh FeLV, see the package leaflet.

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

In case of accidental self-injection medical advice should be sought immediately and the package leaflet or the label shown to the doctor. The vaccine should not be handled by people with a weak immune system. If self-injection does occur in these people, the doctor should be told that self-injection with a live chlamydial vaccine has occurred.

Why is Purevax RCPCh FeLV authorised in the EU?

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

Other information about Purevax RCPCh FeLV

Purevax RCPCh FeLV received a marketing authorisation valid throughout the EU on 23 February 2005.

Further information on Purevax RCPCh FeLV can be found on the Agency's website:

www.ema.europa.eu/medicines/veterinary/EPAR/purevax-rcpch-felv

This overview was last updated in 12-2020.