



## Alfaxan for maintenance of anaesthesia FAQs

**1. If we do not have a syringe driver, can we still use Alfaxan as a maintenance agent?**

Yes, you can. As is outlined on the drug datasheet, Alfaxan is licenced for the maintenance of anaesthesia via top up bolus administration as well as continuous rate infusion (CRI) in both dogs and cats for procedures lasting up to 60 minutes in length. Please refer to the Alfaxan datasheet and our '**USER GUIDE TO ACHIEVING THE BEST OUTCOME WHEN USING ALFAXAN® FOR THE INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ANAESTHESIA**' (found at [www.Alfaxan.co.uk](http://www.Alfaxan.co.uk)) for further details and practical dosing advice.

**2. If maintaining anaesthesia with top up boluses of Alfaxan, should we give the timed bolus if the patient still appears deeply anaesthetised?**

As per anaesthetic maintenance with a volatile (gaseous) agent, routine assessment of the patient's anaesthetic depth (e.g. via blood pressure and heart rate monitoring as well as the presence/absence of somatic responses, such as movement or swallowing) should continue to take place as normal and the dosing of the maintenance agent adjusted accordingly. For bolus maintenance with Alfaxan (most suitable for short procedures) small incremental doses may be administered as depth of anaesthesia begins to decline, or approximately every 10 minutes. Ensure each dose is flushed through with saline. Please refer to the Alfaxan datasheet and our '**USER GUIDE TO ACHIEVING THE BEST OUTCOME WHEN USING ALFAXAN® FOR THE INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ANAESTHESIA**' (found at [www.Alfaxan.co.uk](http://www.Alfaxan.co.uk)) for further details and practical dosing advice.

**3. When maintaining anaesthesia with timed bolus administration of Alfaxan, if the animal is starting to come light before the recommended 10 minutes, can we administer the full bolus?**

As per anaesthetic maintenance with a volatile (gaseous) agent, routine assessment of the patient's anaesthetic depth (e.g. via blood pressure and heart rate monitoring as well as the presence/absence of somatic responses, such as movement or swallowing) should continue to take place as normal and the dosing of the maintenance agent adjusted accordingly. For bolus maintenance with Alfaxan (most suitable for short procedures) small incremental doses may be administered as depth of anaesthesia begins to decline, or approximately every 10 minutes. Ensure each dose is flushed through with saline. Please refer to the Alfaxan datasheet and our '**USER GUIDE TO ACHIEVING THE BEST OUTCOME WHEN USING ALFAXAN® FOR THE INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ANAESTHESIA**' (found at [www.Alfaxan.co.uk](http://www.Alfaxan.co.uk)) for further details and practical dosing advice.

**4. Are there any contraindications with Alfaxan for maintenance?**

Despite there being no known contraindications for using Alfaxan as a maintenance agent, the decision to use it must always be made by the veterinary surgeon in charge of the case following careful risk-benefit analysis of the patient's individual situation, as well as consideration of any other suitable alternatives. The animal should be carefully monitored as respiratory depression may occur during Alfaxan TIVA. IPPV should be initiated if necessary to maintain oxygenation and normal PaCO<sub>2</sub>. The duration of recovery may be longer following Alfaxan TIVA than with volatile maintenance. The intermittent bolus or CRI dose of Alfaxan may require reducing by up to 20%, and the intervals between intermittent bolus administration increasing by up to 20%, in animals with renal or hepatic compromise.

**5. Can we use Alfaxan as a maintenance agent in bitch spays or other painful procedures?**

As is reported in peer reviewed veterinary literature, Alfaxan can be used safely and effectively for maintenance of anaesthesia during painful procedures (such as ovariohysterectomy in both dogs and cats). As Alfaxan does not offer any known analgesic effect the clinician is reminded to ensure that adequate pain control is prescribed in the patient's premedication and thereafter as deemed necessary.

**6. Can you give us a step by step guide to using Alfaxan as a maintenance?**

Please refer to the Alfaxan datasheet and our '**USER GUIDE TO ACHIEVING THE BEST OUTCOME WHEN USING ALFAXAN® FOR THE INDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ANAESTHESIA**' (found at [www.Alfaxan.co.uk](http://www.Alfaxan.co.uk)) for further details and practical dosing advice. If any further support is required, please contact our Customer Services on 0800 500 3171.

**7. Do you have enough Alfaxan stock to cover this situation?**

Jurox UK ensure stock levels of Alfaxan are kept at an adequate level to facilitate any sudden increase in demand. Supplies are fully available and can be sourced from your usual wholesaler. For further information or to place an order please contact our Customer Services on 0800 500 3171.