



The guide to achieving the best outcome for your patient and your team when using Alfaxan® Multidose for the induction of anaesthesia in the pet rabbit.

Premedication

- Dependent on the case ensure suitable premedicant drugs have been administered and an appropriate length of time has elapsed to allow the premedication to achieve peak effect.
- Alpha-2 agonists can reduce the dose of Alfaxan® Multidose and maintenance agents required by up to an average of 70%. Acepromazine can reduce dose requirements by up to 30%.
- Alpha-2 agonists may increase circulation time. Administer Alfaxan® Multidose more slowly than described below if these drugs have been used.

Recommended dose

2mg/kg*

* This is lower than the labelled (SPC) premedicated dose for Alfaxan® Multidose and the dose may be further reduced if alpha-2 agonists or acepromazine have been administered.¹⁻⁹

Preoxygenation is essential prior to induction of anaesthesia with Alfaxan® Multidose in pet rabbits.¹⁰

Ideally oxygenate for 4-5 minutes via tight fitting facemask although “flow by” may be useful in nervous patients.

An intravenous cannula is preferred for the administration of the product.

Induction

1. Calculate and prepare 2mg/kg Alfaxan® Multidose.
2. Within the syringe divide the dose into 4 equal parts.
3. Administer the first ¼ dose slowly.
4. Ensure the dose is flushed through with sterile saline (the cannula and bung can hold approx. 0.1-0.15ml of fluid).
5. Wait 20-25 seconds. The patient will relax into a sedated state and be under control.
6. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
7. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat step 3, flush, and wait 20-25 seconds.
8. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
9. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat steps 7 & 8 until stage III anaesthesia has been achieved, or the full dose administered.
10. It is unusual for intravenously administered Alfaxan® Multidose to have no immediate effect on the patient. If the animal is not demonstrating any degree of sedation following the full calculated dose of Alfaxan® Multidose the position & patency of the IV access should be assessed.
11. If stage III anaesthesia has not been achieved following the 2mg/kg dose, a further similar dose may be administered to effect.
 - **Aim to administer Alfaxan® Multidose slowly and to effect.** Rapid administration may result in transient apnoea.
 - A compensatory increase in heart rate may be seen following Alfaxan® Multidose administration. This is a normal physiological response due to a maintained baroreceptor reflex and persists for 10-15 minutes in most patients.

Airway management & transition

Alfaxan® Multidose provides sufficient duration of action to allow smooth, unrushed, transition to volatile maintenance: up to an average of 10 minutes in the pet rabbit.

- Ensure the patient is genuinely at stage III anaesthesia before attempting to intubate/control the airway.
- Ensure the oropharynx is clear of food material or other debris prior to intubation or placement of a supraglottic airway device.
- Apply local anaesthetic to the larynx and allow sufficient time for this to take effect before using airway management techniques.
- A rabbit that is not sufficiently anaesthetised may “breath hold” following airway management or attempts at airway management.
- Capnography is the gold standard for assessing the success, and maintenance, of airway management techniques.
- Capnography is advisable if supraglottic airway devices are used.

Recovery

- Return of jaw tone & tongue movements may be useful indicators of when to extubate/remove the supraglottic airway device.
- Maintain the rabbit in sternal recumbency, and on 100% oxygen for as long as tolerated, until return to normal.
- Ensure regular monitoring during recovery.
- Minimise stimulation (manipulation, sound, light) to assist smooth recovery.
- Adequate levels of analgesia and a degree of sedation will help smooth recovery.

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