

APVMA Approval No. 82722 (Australia) | ACVM No. A10775 (New Zealand)

# Gastropell® Forte Oral Paste

Double-strength  
enteric-coated Omeprazole  
oral paste for the treatment  
and prevention of gastric  
ulcers

## Active Constituent

Enteric-coated Omeprazole 100 mg/mL

## Pack Size

Pack of 5 x 30mL Multi Dose Syringes

Pack of 50 x 30mL Multi Dose Syringes



## Indications

Gastropell Forte has been shown to be effective in high performance horses (APVMA registration). It is also the product of choice in chronic, recurrent or severe gastric ulcers or whenever rapid resolution of gastric ulceration is required.

Clinical signs of gastric ulceration include depressed appetite, behavioural changes, poor hair coat, recurrent low grade colic, intermittent loose faeces, chronic diarrhoea, poor body condition and poor performance.

For accurate diagnosis direct endoscopic examination (gastroscopy) of the gastric mucosa is recommended.

## Pharmacology

Gastropell Forte is the only APVMA-approved double-strength Omeprazole product on the market. Omeprazole is a dose-dependent inhibitor of gastric acid secretion. Clinical trial data indicates that omeprazole will inhibit gastric acid secretion to maintain gastric acidity at a non-aggressive level. This allows existing ulcers to heal within two to four weeks of commencing treatment. Ongoing daily dosing will prevent the recurrence of ulcers.

The lower region of the stomach is permanently exposed to gastric acid and has innate protective mechanisms, which guard against acid attack. The squamous mucosa in the upper region of the stomach has no inherent protection and frequent splashing with gastric fluid soon erodes the lining to cause spot lesions, which can develop into deep haemorrhaging ulcers within days.

For the performance horse given two or three feeds a day, the stomach is left for long periods without ingestion of feed and without the mat of ingesta that helps to contain the acidic fluid. This exposure to acid is then increased during intense exercise when the stomach volume is reduced to half that of the rested horse and the gastric acid is forced up into the squamous region where it attacks the stomach lining.



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The stomach lining is in a continual cycle of erosion and repair depending on the acidity of the stomach fluid and the horse's feeding and exercise regimen.

Omeprazole is an inhibitor of gastric acid secretion. When given on a daily basis, omeprazole inhibits the enzyme system regarded as the acid (proton) pump within the gastric mucosa of the stomach by binding to the enzyme and blocking the first step of acid production.

Even though it is dosed orally, Gastropell Forte does not act directly on the stomach fluid. The drug passes through the stomach to the small intestine, where it is absorbed and travels via the bloodstream to the acid secreting cells of the stomach.

The powerful antisecretory effect of Gastropell Forte causes a dramatic reduction in the acidity of stomach fluid within days of commencing treatment, and because the gastric fluid is no longer irritating to the stomach lining, ulcers then heal spontaneously within two to four weeks. Continuation with daily dosing then prevents ulcers from recurring.

The pattern of regular sessions of intense training and long periods of the day without ingestion of feed is, however, well tolerated by the performance horse in training if gastric acid secretion is blocked by Gastropell Forte – every day – and the gastric fluid is then not aggressive to the stomach lining.

Gastropell Forte 10 mL/500 kg BW can provide rapid healing of stomach ulcers while horses remain in training, which may be associated with the improvement in clinical signs within two weeks of commencing treatment.

When left untreated, ulcers can recur within two weeks with a severity and across an area equivalent to that prior to treatment. Available data indicates that regular daily maintenance dosing at a reduced rate prevents the recurrence of ulcers.

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## Dosage and Administration

Always administer Gastropell Forte on a relatively empty stomach. Administer a minimum of 20 minutes prior to feeding.

The enteric coated omeprazole beads may be damaged by chewing. Always administer at the back of the mouth over the base of the tongue.

**Adult Horses – Treatment Dose:** 10 mL/500 kg BW (2.0 mg/kg BW) once daily for 2 to 4 weeks followed by daily maintenance dosing.

**Prevention/Maintenance Dose:** 5 mL/500 kg BW (1.0 mg/kg BW) once daily whilst horse remains in training.

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## Safety Directions

May irritate the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Wash hands after use.