

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

### **1. NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

ISOFLURIN 1000 mg/g Inhalation Vapour, Liquid

Inhalation vapour, liquid.

### **2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each g contains:

**Active substance:**

Isoflurane.....1000 mg

This veterinary medicinal product does not contain excipients.

Clear, colourless, mobile, heavy liquid.

### **3. CLINICAL INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Target species**

Horses, dogs, cats, ornamental birds, reptiles, rats, mice, hamsters, chinchillas, gerbils, guinea pigs and ferrets.

#### **3.2 Indications for each target species**

Induction and maintenance of general anaesthesia.

#### **3.3 Contraindications**

Do not use in case of known susceptibility to malignant hyperthermia.

Do not use in cases of hypersensitivity to isoflurane or to other halogenated agents/ halogenated inhalation anaesthetics.

#### **3.4 Special warnings**

The ease and rapidity of alteration of the depth of anaesthesia with isoflurane and its low metabolism, may be considered advantageous for its use in special groups of patients such as the old or young, and those with impaired hepatic, renal or cardiac function.

#### **3.5 Special precautions for use**

##### Special precautions for safe use in the target species

Isoflurane has little or no analgesic properties. Adequate analgesia should always be given before surgery. The analgesic requirements of the patient should be considered before the general anaesthesia is ended.

The use of the product in patients with cardiac disease should be considered only after a risk/ benefit assessment by the veterinarian.

It is important to monitor breathing and pulse for the frequency and its features. Respiratory arrest should be treated by assisted ventilation. It is important to maintain airways free and properly oxygenate tissues during the maintenance of anaesthesia. In the case of cardiac arrest, perform a complete cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The metabolism of isoflurane in birds and small mammals, can be affected by decreases in body temperature, that may occur secondary to a high surface area to body weight ratio. Therefore, body temperature should be monitored and kept stable during treatment.

Drug metabolism in reptiles is slow and highly dependent upon environmental temperature. Reptiles may be difficult to induce with inhalation agents due to breath holding.

Like other inhalation anaesthetics of this type, isoflurane depresses the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

When using isoflurane to anaesthetise an animal with a head injury, consideration should be given as to whether artificial ventilation is appropriate to help avoid increased cerebral blood flow by maintaining normal CO<sub>2</sub> levels.

#### Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals

Do not breathe the vapour. Users should consult their National Authority for advice on Occupational Exposure Standards for isoflurane.

Operating rooms and recovery areas should be provided with adequate ventilation or scavenging systems to prevent the accumulation of anaesthetic vapour. All scavenging/extraction systems must be adequately maintained.

Exposure to anaesthetics can harm the unborn child. The veterinary medicinal product should not be administered by pregnant women. Pregnant and breast-feeding women should avoid operating rooms and animal recovery areas.

Avoid using masking procedures for prolonged induction and maintenance of general anaesthesia.

Use cuffed endotracheal intubation when possible for the administration of the product during maintenance of general anaesthesia.

Care should be taken when dispensing isoflurane, with any spillage removed immediately using an inert and absorbent material e.g. sawdust. Wash any splashes from skin and eyes, and avoid contact with the mouth. If severe accidental exposure occurs remove the operator from the source of exposure, seek urgent medical assistance and show the label.

Halogenated anaesthetic agents may induce liver damage. In case of isoflurane this is an idiosyncratic response very rarely seen after repeated exposure.

*Advice to Doctors:* Ensure a patent airway and give symptomatic and supportive treatment. Note that adrenaline and catecholamines may cause cardiac dysrhythmias.

#### Special precautions for the protection of the environment

To protect the environment, it is considered good practice to use charcoal filters with scavenging equipment.

### 3.6 Adverse events

Horse, dog, cat, ornamental bird, reptile, rat, mouse, hamster, chinchilla, gerbil, guinea pig, ferret:

Rare (1 to 10 animals / 10,000 animals treated):	Arrhythmia, bradycardia <sup>1</sup>
Very rare (<1 animal / 10,000 animals treated, including isolated reports):	Cardiac arrest Respiratory arrest Malignant hyperthermia <sup>2</sup>
Undetermined frequency (cannot be estimated from the available data):	Hypotension <sup>3</sup> Respiratory depression <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Transient

<sup>2</sup> Susceptible animals

<sup>3</sup> Dose-related

Reporting adverse events is important. It allows continuous safety monitoring of a veterinary medicinal product. Reports should be sent, preferably via a veterinarian, to either the marketing authorisation holder, or its local representative, or the national competent authority via the national reporting system. See the package leaflet for respective contact details.

### 3.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

#### Pregnancy:

Use only according to the benefit-risk assessment by the responsible veterinarian. Isoflurane has been safely used for anaesthesia during caesarean section in the dog and cat.

#### Lactation:

Use only according to the benefit-risk assessment by the responsible veterinarian.

### 3.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The action of muscle relaxants in man, especially those of the nondepolarising (competitive) type such as atracurium, pancuronium or vecuronium, is enhanced by isoflurane. Similar potentiation might be expected to occur in the target species, although there is little direct evidence to this effect. Concurrent inhalation of nitrous oxide enhances the effect of isoflurane in man and similar potentiation might be expected in animals.

The concurrent use of sedative or analgesic drugs is likely to reduce the level of isoflurane required to produce and maintain anaesthesia. Some examples are given in section 3.9.

Isoflurane has a weaker sensitising action on the myocardium, to the effects of circulating arrhythmogenic catecholamines, than halothane.

Isoflurane may be degraded to carbon monoxide by dried carbon dioxide absorbents.

### 3.9 Administration routes and dosage

Isoflurane should be administered using an accurately calibrated vaporiser in an appropriate anaesthetic circuit, since levels of anaesthesia may be altered rapidly and easily.

Isoflurane may be administered in oxygen or oxygen/nitrous oxide mixtures. The MAC (minimal alveolar concentration in oxygen) or effective dose ED<sub>50</sub> values and suggested concentrations given below for the target species should be used as a guide or starting point only. The actual concentrations required in practice will depend on many variables, including the concomitant use of other drugs during the anaesthetic procedure and the clinical status of the patient.

Isoflurane may be used in conjunction with other drugs commonly used in veterinary anaesthetic regimes for premedication, induction and analgesia. Some specific examples are given in the individual species information. The use of analgesia for painful procedures is consistent with good veterinary practice.

Recovery from isoflurane anaesthesia is usually smooth and rapid. The analgesic requirements of the patient should be considered before the termination of general anaesthesia.

Although anaesthetics have a low potential for damage to the atmosphere, it is good practice to use charcoal filters with scavenging equipment, rather than to discharge them into the air.

#### **HORSES**

The MAC for isoflurane in the horse is approximately 13.1 mg/g.

##### Premedication

Isoflurane may be used with other drugs commonly used in veterinary anaesthetic regimes. The following drugs have been found to be compatible with isoflurane: acepromazine, alfentanil, atracurium, butorphanol, detomidine, diazepam, dobutamine, dopamine, guiaphenesin, ketamine, morphine, pentazocine, pethidine, thiamylal, thiopentone and xylazine. Drugs used for premedication should be selected for the individual patient. However, the potential interactions below should be noted.

##### Interactions

Detomidine and xylazine have been reported to reduce the MAC for isoflurane in horses.

##### Induction

As it is not normally practicable to induce anaesthesia in adult horses using isoflurane, induction should be by the use of a short acting barbiturate such as thiopentone sodium, ketamine or guiaphenesin. Concentrations of 30 to 50 mg/g isoflurane may then be used to achieve the desired depth of anaesthesia in 5 to 10 minutes. Isoflurane at a concentration of 30 to 50 mg/g in a high flow oxygen may be used for induction in foals.

##### Maintenance

Anaesthesia may be maintained using 15 to 25 mg/g isoflurane.

##### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid.

## **DOGS**

The MAC for isoflurane in the dog is approximately 12.8 mg/g.

### Premedication

Isoflurane may be used with other drugs commonly used in veterinary anaesthetic regimes. The following drugs have been found to be compatible with isoflurane: acepromazine, atropine, butorphanol, buprenorphine, bupivacaine, diazepam, dobutamine, ephedrine, epinephrine, etomidate, glycopyrrolate, ketamine, medetomidine, midazolam, methoxamine, oxymorphone, propofol, thiamylal, thiopentone and xylazine. Drugs used for premedication should be selected for the individual patient. However, the potential interactions below should be noted.

### Interactions

Morphine, oxymorphone, acepromazine, medetomidine, medetomidine plus midazolam have been reported to reduce the MAC for isoflurane in dogs.

The concomitant administration of midazolam/ketamine during isoflurane anaesthesia may result in marked cardiovascular effects, particularly arterial hypotension.

The depressant effects of propranolol on myocardial contractility are reduced during isoflurane anaesthesia, indicating a moderate degree of  $\beta$ -receptor activity.

### Induction

Induction is possible by face mask using up to 50 mg/g isoflurane, with or without premedication.

### Maintenance

Anaesthesia may be maintained using 15 to 25 mg/g isoflurane.

### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid.

## **CATS**

The MAC for isoflurane in the cat is approximately 16.3 mg/g.

### Premedication

Isoflurane may be used with other drugs commonly used in veterinary anaesthetic regimes. The following drugs have been found to be compatible with isoflurane: acepromazine, atracurium, atropine, diazepam, ketamine, and oxymorphone. Drugs used for premedication should be selected for the individual patient. However, the potential interactions below should be noted.

### Interactions

Intravenous administration of midazolam-butorphanol has been reported to alter several cardio-respiratory parameters in isoflurane-induced cats as has epidural fentanyl and medetomidine. Isoflurane has been shown to reduce the sensitivity of the heart to adrenaline (epinephrine).

### Induction

Induction is possible by face mask using up to 40 mg/g isoflurane, with or without premedication.

### Maintenance

Anaesthesia may be maintained using 15 to 30 mg/g isoflurane.

### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid.

## **ORNAMENTAL BIRDS**

Few MAC/ED<sub>50</sub> values have been recorded. Examples are 13.4 mg/g for the Sandhill crane, 14.5 mg/g for the racing pigeon, reduced to 8.9 mg/g by the administration of midazolam, and 14.4 mg/g for cockatoos, reduced to 10.8 mg/g by the administration of butorphanol analgesic.

The use of isoflurane anaesthesia has been reported for many species, from small birds such as zebra finches, to large birds such as vultures, eagles and swans.

### Drug interactions/compatibilities

Propofol has been demonstrated in the literature to be compatible with isoflurane anaesthesia in swans.

### Interactions

Butorphanol has been reported to reduce the MAC for isoflurane in cockatoos. Midazolam has been reported to reduce the MAC for isoflurane in pigeons.

### Induction

Induction with 30 to 50 mg/g isoflurane is normally rapid. Induction of anaesthesia with propofol, followed by isoflurane maintenance, has been reported for swans.

### Maintenance

The maintenance dose depends on the species and individual. Generally, 20 to 30 mg/g is suitable and safe.

Only 6 to 10 mg/g may be needed for some stork and heron species.

Up to 40 to 50 mg/g may be needed for some vultures and eagles.

35 to 40 mg/g may be needed for some ducks and geese.

Generally, birds respond very rapidly to changes in concentration of isoflurane.

### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid.

## **REPTILES**

Isoflurane is considered by several authors to be the anaesthetic of choice for many species. The literature records its use on a wide variety of reptiles (eg. various species of lizard, tortoise, iguanas, chameleon and snakes).

The ED<sub>50</sub> was determined in the desert iguana to be 31.4 mg/g at 35°C and 28.3 mg/g at 20°C.

### Drug interactions/ compatibilities

No specific publications on reptiles have reviewed compatibilities or interactions of other drugs with isoflurane anaesthesia.

### Induction

Induction is usually rapid at 20 to 40 mg/g isoflurane.

### Maintenance

10 to 30 mg/g is a useful concentration

### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid

## **RATS, MICE, HAMSTERS, CHINCHILLAS, GERBILS, GUNIEA PIGS AND FERRETS**

Isoflurane has been recommended for anaesthesia of a wide variety of small mammals.

The MAC for mice has been cited as 13.4 mg/g, and for the rat as 13.8 mg/g, 14.6 mg/g and 24 mg/g.

### Drug interactions/ compatibilities

No specific publications on small mammals have reviewed compatibilities or interactions of other drugs with isoflurane anaesthesia.

### Induction

Isoflurane concentration 20 to 30 mg/g.

### Maintenance

Isoflurane concentration 2.5 to 20 mg/g.

### Recovery

Recovery is usually smooth and rapid.

Guide to induction and maintenance of anaesthesia by species

<b>Species</b>	<b>MAC (%)</b>	<b>Induction (%)</b>	<b>Maintenance (%)</b>	<b>Recovery</b>
Horses	1.31	3.0 – 5.0 (foals)	1.5 – 2.5	Smooth and rapid
Dogs	1.28	Up to 5.0	1.5 – 2.5	Smooth and rapid
Cats	1.63	Up to 4.0	1.5 – 3.0	Smooth and rapid
Ornamental birds	See posology	3.0 – 5.0	See posology	Smooth and rapid
Reptiles	See posology	2.0 – 4.0	1.0 – 3.0	Smooth and rapid
Rats, mice, hamsters, chinchillas, gerbils, guinea pigs and ferrets	1.34 (mouse) 1.38/1.46/2.40 (rat)	2.0 – 3.0	0.25 – 2.0	Smooth and rapid

### **3.10 Symptoms of overdose (and where applicable, emergency procedures and antidotes)**

Isoflurane overdose may result in profound respiratory depression. Therefore, respiration must be monitored closely and supported when necessary with supplementary oxygen and/ or assisted ventilation.

In cases of severe cardiopulmonary depression, administration of isoflurane should be discontinued, the breathing circuit should be flushed with oxygen, the existence of a patent airway ensured, and assisted or controlled ventilation with pure oxygen

initiated. Cardiovascular depression should be treated with plasma expanders, pressor agents, antiarrhythmic agents or other appropriate techniques.

**3.11 Special restrictions for use and special conditions for use, including restrictions on the use of antimicrobial and antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products in order to limit the risk of development of resistance.**

Not applicable.

**3.12 Withdrawal period**

Horses: Meat and offal: 2 days

Not authorised for use in mares producing milk for human consumption.

**4. PHARMACOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**4.1 ATCvet code:**

QN01AB06

**4.2 Pharmacodynamics**

Isoflurane produces unconsciousness by its action on the central nervous system. It has little or no analgesic properties.

Like other inhalation anaesthetics of this type, isoflurane depresses the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. Isoflurane is absorbed on inhalation and is rapidly distributed via the bloodstream to other tissues, including the brain. Its blood/gas partition coefficient at 37°C is 1.4. The absorption and distribution of Isoflurane and the elimination of non-metabolised isoflurane by the lungs are all rapid, with the clinical consequences of rapid induction and recovery and easy and rapid control of the depth of anaesthesia.

**4.3 Pharmacokinetics**

Metabolism of isoflurane is minimal (about 0.2%, mainly to inorganic fluoride) and almost all of the administered isoflurane is excreted unchanged by the lungs.

**5. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

**5.1 Major incompatibilities**

Isoflurane has been reported to interact with dry carbon dioxide absorbents to form carbon monoxide. In order to minimise the risk of formation of carbon monoxide in rebreathing circuits and the possibility of elevated carboxyhaemoglobin levels, carbon dioxide absorbents should not be allowed to dry out.

**5.2 Shelf life**

Shelf-life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale: 60 months.



### **5.3 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 25°C.  
Store in the original container.  
Protect from light.  
Keep the bottle tightly closed.

### **5.4 Nature and composition of immediate packaging**

Amber coloured glass bottle (Type III) containing 100ml or 250ml isoflurane. Bottles are closed with a black polypropylene screw cap.  
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **5.5 Special precautions for the disposal of unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from the use of such products**

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater.

Use take-back schemes for the disposal of any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived thereof in accordance with local requirements and with any national collection systems applicable to the veterinary medicinal product concerned.

## **6. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Vetpharma Animal Health, S.L.

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER**

Vm 32509/5006  
Vm 32509/3006

## **8. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION**

20 November 2020

## **9. DATE OF THE LAST REVISION OF THE SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

February 2025

## **10. CLASSIFICATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS**

Veterinary medicinal product subject to prescription.  
Find more product information by searching for the 'Product Information Database' on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

*Gavin Hall*  
Approved: 05 March 2025