

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Felinta 15 mg prolonged-release tablets for cats

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each prolonged-release tablet contains:

Active substance:

Carbimazole 15.0 mg

Excipients:

FD & C Red No. 3 (E127) 0.75 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Prolonged-release tablet.

Round, dark pink tablet with speckles and de-bossed with "CAR 15" on one side and plain on other side.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Target species

Cats.

4.2 Indications for use, specifying the target species

Treatment of hyperthyroidism and hyperthyroidism-associated clinical signs in cats.

4.3 Contraindications

Do not use in cats suffering from concurrent systemic diseases, such as severe primary liver disease or diabetes mellitus.

Do not use in cats showing signs of auto-immune diseases and/or altered red or white blood cell counts, such as anaemia, neutropaenia or lymphopaenia.

Do not use in cats with platelet disorders (particularly thrombocytopaenia) or coagulopathies.

Do not use in cats with hypersensitivity to mercaptoimidazoles such as carbimazole or thiamazole (methimazole) or to any of the excipients.

Please refer to section 4.7.

4.4 Special warnings for the target species

Thiamazole (methimazole), the active metabolite of carbimazole, inhibits thyroid hormone production and therefore cessation of treatment with carbimazole will result in a rapid (within 48 hours) return to pre-treatment thyroid hormone levels. Chronic administration is therefore necessary unless surgical or radiation-induced thyroidectomy is performed. A small proportion of cats with thyroid adenoma may fail to respond or have a poor response to treatment.

Thyroid carcinoma is a rare cause of hyperthyroidism in the cat and medical management alone is not recommended in such cases as it is not curative.

4.5 Special precautions for use

Special precautions for use in animals

Treatment should be adjusted according to a benefit-risk assessment by the responsible veterinarian in each individual case.

Treatment of hyperthyroidism may result in a reduction in the glomerular filtration rate. This can lead to unmasking of pre-existent renal dysfunction. Treatment of hyperthyroidism may also induce an elevation of liver enzymes or a worsening of pre-existing hepatic disorders. Renal and liver function should therefore be monitored before and during treatment.

Due to risk of leucopaenia or haemolytic anaemia, haematology parameters should be monitored on a regular basis before and during treatment, preferably at each visit of the dose adjustment phase and maintenance phase (see section 4.9).

Any animal that suddenly appears unwell during therapy, particularly if they are febrile, should have a blood sample taken for routine haematology and biochemistry.

Neutropaenic animals (neutrophil counts $<2.5 \times 10^9/L$) should be treated prophylactically with bactericidal antibiotics and supportive therapy.

Doses above 20 mg have only been trialled in a small number of cats and should be used with caution.

Therefore, careful monitoring is recommended and the dose should be adjusted in individual cases following a benefit-risk assessment by the responsible veterinarian.

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

People with a known hypersensitivity (allergy) to carbimazole or any of the excipients should avoid contact with the product.

If allergic symptoms develop, such as a skin rash, swelling of the face, lips or eyes or difficulty in breathing, you should seek medical attention immediately and show the package leaflet or label to the physician.

Carbimazole, as a prodrug of thiamazole (methimazole), may cause vomiting, epigastric distress, headache, fever, arthralgia, pruritus and pancytopenia.

Avoid dermal contact and oral exposure, including hand-to-mouth contact.

Do not break or crush tablets.

Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling the tablet or used litter.

Wash hands with soap and water after administration of the product and when handling litter used by treated animals.

In the case of accidental ingestion, seek medical advice immediately and show the package or the label to the physician.

Carbimazole is a suspected human teratogen.

Women of child-bearing age must wear non-permeable, single use gloves when administering the product or handling litter/vomit of treated cats. If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are attempting to conceive, you should not administer the product or handle the litter/vomit of treated cats.

4.6 Adverse reactions (frequency and seriousness)

Treatment of hyperthyroidism may result in a reduction of renal perfusion. Azotaemia has been reported in rare cases; depending on the severity, temporary or permanent discontinuation of treatment may be required. Polydipsia and polyuria have also been reported in rare (polydipsia) or very rare cases (polyuria).

Weight loss, vomiting, lethargy, tachycardia, reduced appetite, diarrhoea and dehydration have been observed in rare cases.

Increased liver enzymes have been reported in rare cases. Severe cases may require temporary or permanent discontinuation of treatment. However, these elevations are usually reversible when treatment is discontinued, although symptomatic therapy (nutritional and fluid support) may be required.

Anaemia, increase or decrease in white blood cell count, neutrophilia, thrombocytopaenia, eosinophilia and/or lymphopaenia have been reported in rare cases, in particular during the first 4-6 weeks of treatment. Discontinuation of treatment may be required in case of persistent and marked disorder. In most cases, the abnormality will resolve spontaneously within 1 month after the treatment has been discontinued.

Dermatological signs (pruritus, dermatitis, erythema, alopecia) have been reported in rare cases. These clinical signs are usually mild, adequately controlled by symptomatic therapy and do not require discontinuation of treatment. However, if more severe clinical

signs occur that do not respond to symptomatic therapy, the dose should be reduced or treatment stopped following a benefit-risk assessment by the responsible veterinarian.

Signs of gastrointestinal bleeding such as bloody vomit, oral haemorrhage or dark faeces have been reported in rare cases.

Ataxia, pyrexia, dyspnoea, disorientation, aggressiveness, and positive antinuclear antibody (ANA) have also been reported in very rare cases.

In cases of serious adverse reactions, mortality, possibly due to the product, might occur if treatment is not discontinued. In many cases adverse reactions are reversible on cessation of treatment.

The frequency of adverse reactions is defined using the following convention:

- very common (more than 1 in 10 animals treated displaying adverse reactions)
- common (more than 1 but less than 10 animals in 100 animals treated)
- uncommon (more than 1 but less than 10 animals in 1,000 animals treated)
- rare (more than 1 but less than 10 animals in 10,000 animals treated)
- very rare (less than 1 animal in 10,000 animals treated, including isolated reports).

4.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

Laboratory studies in rats and mice have shown evidence of teratogenic and embryotoxic effects of thiamazole (methimazole).

The safety of the product was not assessed in pregnant or lactating cats. Furthermore, thiamazole crosses the placenta, distributes into milk and reaches approximately the same concentration as in maternal serum.

Do not use in pregnant or lactating animals.

4.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Concomitant treatment with phenobarbital may reduce the clinical efficacy of carbimazole.

Concomitant use of benzimidazole anthelmintics (fenbendazole or mebendazole) has been shown to reduce the hepatic oxidation of this therapeutic class and may therefore induce an increase in circulating levels. Accordingly, co-administration of carbimazole with a benzimidazole is not recommended.

Thiamazole may display immunomodulating properties. This should be taken into account when considering vaccination of the cat.

4.9 Amounts to be administered and administration route

For oral use only.

Administration with food enhances bioavailability. The timing of treatment and its relation to feeding should be kept consistent from day to day.

Do not break or crush the tablets as this will affect the sustained release property.

The aim of treatment is to maintain total thyroxine concentrations (TT4) in the lower end of the reference range.

The following dose recommendations during the adjustment and maintenance phases are suggested.

Dosing adjustment should primarily be based upon a clinical assessment of the individual cat. Monitoring of TT4, full haematology and liver and kidney parameters is recommended at each follow up visit (see sections 4.5 and 4.6).

Adjustment phase

The starting dose is a single daily oral administration of one tablet of 15 mg carbimazole per cat. Consideration could be given to a starting dose of one 10 mg tablet daily where the TT4 concentration is only mildly increased, e.g. between 50 nmol/L and 100 nmol/L.

With the recommended starting dose of one 15 mg tablet once daily, TT4 may decrease to within the euthyroid range (TT4 < 50 nmol/L) shortly after treatment initiation. A dose adjustment may be required as early as 10 days of treatment.

Dose adjustment should be also performed 3, 5 and 8 weeks after initiation of treatment, depending on both clinical and hormonal responses to treatment.

Maintenance phase

Follow-up visits every 3 to 6 months are recommended. The dose should be adjusted individually based on clinical signs and TT4. It is advisable to check TT4 10-14 days after dose adjustment.

The therapeutic dose ranges between 10 mg (one 10 mg tablet) and 25 mg (one 10 mg tablet and one 15 mg tablet) once daily.

Some cats require doses of less than 10 mg carbimazole daily. Every other day dosing with 10 mg or 15 mg of carbimazole may be sufficient to control the disease.

Dose increases should not be made in increments of greater than 5 mg.

Doses above 20 mg have only been trialled in a small number of cats and should be used with caution.

4.10 Overdose (symptoms, emergency procedures, antidotes), if necessary

In case of an overdose, adverse effects that may appear include, but are not limited to, weight loss, inappetence, vomiting, lethargy and less frequently signs of gastrointestinal bleeding such as haematemesis, oral haemorrhage or haemorrhage of the intestinal tract. Coat and skin abnormalities (erythema, alopecia), as well as haematological/biochemical changes (eosinophilia, lymphocytosis, neutropaenia, lymphopaenia, slight leucopaenia, agranulocytosis, thrombocytopaenia or haemolytic anaemia) may also appear. Hepatitis and nephritis have been reported. These adverse effects may become severe in case of chronic overdosing. In most cases, adverse effects are reversible upon treatment discontinuation and appropriate veterinary care.

TT4 below the lower limit of the reference range may be observed during treatment although this is rarely linked to overt clinical signs. Decreasing the dose will lead to an increase of the TT4. Dose adjustment should not be made based on TT4 only (see section 4.9).

Please also refer to section 4.6

4.11 Withdrawal period

Not applicable.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Systemic hormonal products excl. sex hormones and insulin; thyroid therapy; antithyroid preparations; sulphur-containing imidazole derivatives
ATC vet code: QH03BB01

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Carbimazole is the prodrug of thiamazole (methimazole). Although carbimazole has inherent antithyroid activity, it is almost totally converted to thiamazole soon after its oral administration *in vivo* in humans and cats.

Thiamazole results in dose-dependent inhibition of the thyroid peroxidase-catalysed reactions involved in thyroid hormone synthesis, including oxidation of iodide and iodination of tyrosyl residues in thyroglobulin, thereby inhibiting neosynthesis of thyroid hormones. Thiamazole also interferes with the coupling of iodotyrosines to iodothyronines via inhibition of thyroid peroxidase or by binding and altering the structure of thyroglobulin, this reaction being more sensitive to inhibition than the formation of iodotyrosines. The inhibitory action of thiamazole is reversible.

Thiamazole does not inhibit the action of thyroid hormones already formed and present in the thyroid glands or bloodstream, or interfere with the effectiveness of administered exogenous thyroid hormone (iatrogenic hyperthyroidism). This explains why the length of the latency period until normalisation of serum concentrations of thyroxine and triiodothyronine, and thus to clinical improvement, differs between individuals.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic particulars

Carbimazole is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration and hydrolysed in the gastrointestinal tract (or immediately after entering into the circulation) to the active metabolite thiamazole (methimazole).

Following oral administration of one tablet of Felinta 15 mg to healthy fasted cats, maximum thiamazole concentrations are observed 1-12 hours after administration, with a mean peak concentration of thiamazole of 0.64-1.62 µg/ml.

The thiamazole concentration/time profile is devoid of pronounced peaks and thiamazole persists in the circulation at least 24 hrs for Felinta 15 mg.

The presence of food in the gastrointestinal tract at the time of administration has been shown to increase the bioavailability of thiamazole. When tablets are administered with food, both C_{max} and AUC_{last} may be increased whereas t_{max} is not expected to change. No cumulative effects are observed upon repeated administration.

The tissue distribution of mercaptoimidazoles has not been specifically studied in cats but has been fully described in rodents. Thiamazole is mainly concentrated in the thyroid and adrenal glands and can be found to a lesser extent in the thymus, diaphragm, kidneys, brain, liver, colon, testes, small intestine, stomach and plasma.

Mercaptoimidazoles have also been shown to cross the placental barrier.

In rats, thiamazole is excreted mainly via the urine, and to a lesser extent in the faeces.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Hypromellose

Microcrystalline cellulose

FD & C Red No. 3 (E127)

Silica, colloidal anhydrous

Magnesium stearate

6.2 Major incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

Shelf life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale: 2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30°C
Store in the original package.

6.5 Nature and composition of immediate packaging

Alu-Alu blister containing 10 tablets. The blisters are packed in a carton containing 30 or 100 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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

Any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from such veterinary medicinal product should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Billev Pharma East, Ltd
Tržaška cesta 202
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

Vm 33872/5004

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION

11 October 2022

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

November 2024

PROHIBITION OF SALE, SUPPLY AND/OR USE

To be supplied only on veterinary prescription, POM-V

Gavin Hall

Approved: 19 December 2024