Buprenorphine

(Bupaq (c,d), Buprecare (c,d), Buprenodale (c,d), Buprevet (c,d), Vetergesic (c,d), Bupredine (c,d)) POM-V CD SCHEDULE 3

- **Client Information Leaflet: Buprenorphine**
- **Formulations**

Injectable: 0.3 mg/ml solution; available in 1 ml vials that do not contain a preservative, or in 10 ml multidose bottle that contains chlorocresol as preservative.

- **Action**

Analgesia through high affinity, low intrinsic activity and slow dissociation with the mu receptor.

- **Use**
    - Relief of mild to moderate perioperative pain.
    - It may antagonize the effects of full opioid agonists (e.g. methadone, fentanyl), although the clinical relevance of interactions between full mu agonists and buprenorphine has been questioned.

It is not recommended to administer buprenorphine when the subsequent administration of full mu agonists is likely. If analgesia is inadequate after buprenorphine, a full mu agonist may be administered without delay. Buprenorphine may be mixed with acepromazine or dexmedetomidine to provide sedation for minor procedures or pre-anaesthetic medication. Response to all opioids is variable between individuals; therefore, assessment of pain after administration is imperative. Onset of action of buprenorphine may be slower than methadone (>15 min). Duration of effect is approximately 6 hours in cats and is likely to be similar in dogs. Buprenorphine is metabolized in the liver; some prolongation of effect may be seen with impaired liver function. The multidose preparation is unpalatable given sublingually due to the preservative. The analgesic efficacy of buprenorphine s.c. may be less than buprenorphine administered i.m. or i.v. to cats; this route is not recommended in cats or dogs.

More +

- **DOSES**

When used for sedation is generally given as part of a combination. See Appendix for sedation protocols in cats and dogs.

- **Dogs** Analgesia: 0.02 mg/kg i.v., i.m., s.c. q6h.
- **Cats** Analgesia: 0.02–0.03 mg/kg i.v., i.m., s.c. q6h. Also well tolerated with some efficacy when given oral transmucosally.