

Memantine

(Maxura*, Nemdatine*) POM

- **Formulations**

Oral: 10 mg, 20 mg tablets; 10 mg/ml solution.

- **Action**

Provides analgesia through NMDA antagonist action which may potentiate the effects of other analgesics. It is also an agonist at the dopamine D2 receptor and acts as a non-competitive antagonist at the serotonin 5-HT₃ and nicotinic acetylcholine receptors.

- **Use**

- Used as an adjunctive analgesic for the management of chronic pain in dogs.
- Has been used to treat canine compulsive disorders either alone or with fluoxetine.

Has a similar mechanism of action to amantadine but is significantly cheaper and therefore may be useful for patients where administration of amantadine is cost prohibitive. Anecdotal experience of using memantine in cats is lacking. Memantine is authorized for the management of Alzheimer's disease in humans.

- **DOSES**

- **Dogs** 0.3–1.0 mg/kg p.o. q24h. There is a limited evidence base to support this dose recommendation. Start at the low end and titrate upwards.
- **Cats** No information available.