

Paracetamol (Acetaminophen)

(Pardale-V (d), Paracetamol*, Perfalgan*) POM-V, POM, P

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Paracetamol](#)
- **Formulations**

Oral: 500 mg tablets; 120 mg/5 ml, 250 mg/5 ml suspensions; 400 mg paracetamol + 9 mg codeine phosphate tablets (Pardale-V). Injectable: 10 mg/ml solution.

- **Action**

It has been proposed that its antipyretic and analgesic actions are due to decreased prostaglandin synthesis within the CNS, possibly via indirect actions on the cannabinoid system; however, its exact mechanism of action is unclear.

- **Use**

- Control of mild to moderate pain.
- Antipyretic action.
- Injectable paracetamol may be useful to provide adjunctive analgesia in dogs during the perioperative period.

There are limited data describing the analgesic efficacy of paracetamol in dogs. Paracetamol has poor anti-inflammatory effects. It is believed to produce few GI side effects and therefore is commonly administered if traditional NSAIDs are contraindicated; however, there are limited clinical data to support this practice. Although common practice in human anaesthesia, the combination of an NSAID and paracetamol to provide perioperative analgesia has not undergone rigorous investigation in dogs in terms of either safety or efficacy. The authorized oral preparation of paracetamol contains codeine; however, due to a high first-pass metabolism of opioids, this codeine is not bioavailable and therefore is unlikely to contribute to analgesia.

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- **DOSES**

- **Dogs:** 10–20 mg/kg p.o., i.v. q8h. Authorized dose of Pardale-V preparation is 1 tablet per 12 kg (equivalent to 33 mg/kg) q8h for 5 days, although longer term administration of Pardale-V is widely used clinically without apparent side effects. For acute pain management, doses of 20–33 mg/kg q8h, for a period not exceeding 5–7 days, have been advocated. However there are limited data describing the pharmacodynamics of paracetamol in dogs and it is difficult to make evidence-based dose recommendations. Recent studies have shown a lack of efficacy of paracetamol when used as a monotherapy for acute and chronic pain.
- **Cats:** Do not use.