



Paul-Ehrlich-Institut

## Beurteilungsbericht zur Veröffentlichung

(gemäß § 31 Abs. 2 Tierimpfstoff-Verordnung)

### Versican Plus DHP

Zulassungsdatum:	24.03.2016
Zulassungsnummer:	PEI.V.11783.01.1
Datum der Erstellung des öffentlichen Beurteilungsberichts:	01 November 2025
Datum der Bekanntgabe beim Antragsteller der/des Zulassungsänderung/Widerrufs, Rücknahme, Anordnung des Ruhens der Zulassung:	-



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(Reference Member State)**

**DECENTRALISED PROCEDURE  
PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A VETERINARY  
MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

**Versican Plus DHP**

**PRODUCT SUMMARY**

EU Procedure number	DE/V/0267/001/DC
Name, strength and pharmaceutical form	Versican Plus DHP, lyophilisate and solvent for suspension for injection
Applicant	Zoetis Belgium s.a. Rue Laid Burnait, 1 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve Belgium
Active substance(s)	<p>Each dose of 1 ml contains:</p> <p><u>Lyophilisate (live attenuated):</u>            Canine distemper virus, strain CDV Bio 11/A,  <math>10^{3.1} - 10^{5.1}</math> TCID<sub>50</sub>*            Canine adenovirus Type 2, strain CAV-2 Bio 13,  <math>10^{3.6} - 10^{5.3}</math> TCID<sub>50</sub>            Canine parvovirus Type 2b, strain CPV-2b Bio 12/B  <math>10^{4.3} - 10^{6.6}</math> TCID<sub>50</sub></p> <p><u>Solvent:</u>            Water for injections (<i>Aqua ad iniectabilia</i>): 1 ml</p> <p>* Tissue culture infectious dose 50%</p>
ATC Vetcode	QI07AD02
Target species	Dogs
Indication for use	<p>Active immunisation of dogs from 6 weeks of age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– to prevent mortality and clinical signs caused by canine distemper virus,</li> <li>– to prevent mortality and clinical signs caused by canine adenovirus type 1,</li> <li>– to prevent clinical signs and reduce viral excretion caused by canine adenovirus type 2 and</li> <li>- to prevent clinical signs, leucopenia and viral excretion caused by canine parvovirus.</li> </ul>

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

The Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC), the labelling and package leaflet for this immunological veterinary medicinal product (IVMP) are available in the Union Product Database (UPD).

## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Legal basis of decentralised procedure application	Decentralised procedure application in accordance with Article 31 of Directive 2001/82/EC as amended.
Date of completion of the decentralised procedure	27 January 2016
Concerned Member States for mutual recognition procedure	BE, BG, CY, DK, EL, ES, FI, HU, IT, LU, NL, NO, PL, PT, SE, UK (NI)

### 1. SCIENTIFIC OVERVIEW

The product is produced and controlled using validated methods and tests, which ensure the consistency of the product released on the market.

It has been shown that the product can be safely used in the target species; the slight reactions observed are indicated in the SPC (Summary of Product Characteristics).

The product is safe for the user and for the environment, when used as recommended. The efficacy of the product was demonstrated according to the claims made in the SPC.

The overall benefit/risk analysis is in favour of granting a marketing authorisation.

## 2. QUALITY DOCUMENTATION

### 2.A. Product description

Composition per 1 ml dose:

Each 1 ml dose of Versican Plus DHP contains the following:

#### Active substances:

<b><u>Lyophilisate (live attenuated):</u></b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Canine distemper virus, strain CDV Bio 11/A	$10^{3.1} \text{ TCID}_{50}^*$	$10^{5.1} \text{ TCID}_{50}$
Canine adenovirus Type 2, strain CAV-2 Bio 13	$10^{3.6} \text{ TCID}_{50}^*$	$10^{5.3} \text{ TCID}_{50}$
Canine parvovirus Type 2b, strain CPV-2b Bio 12/B	$10^{4.3} \text{ TCID}_{50}^*$	$10^{6.6} \text{ TCID}_{50}$

#### **Solvent:**

Water for injections ( <i>Aqua ad iniectabilia</i> )	1 m
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\* Tissue culture infectious dose 50%

Container/closure system:

The vaccine is filled in 3 ml glass type I containers.

The vials of the lyophilisate are closed with a bromobutyl rubber stopper and an aluminium cap. The vials of the solvent are closed with a chlorobutyl rubber stopper and an aluminium cap. The particulars of the containers and controls performed are provided and conform to the regulations of Monograph 3.2.1 of the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.).

The choice of the vaccine strains (canine distemper virus, strain CDV Bio 11/A, canine adenovirus Type 2, strain CAV2-Bio 13 and canine parvovirus Type 2b, strain CPV-2b Bio 12/B) are justified.

The product is an established pharmaceutical form and its development is adequately described in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

### 2.B. Description of the manufacturing method

The product is manufactured fully in accordance with the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) from a licensed manufacturing site. A corresponding manufacturing licence and GMP certificate are provided.

Process validation data on the product have been presented in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

The product is manufactured in accordance with the European Pharmacopoeia and relevant European guidelines.

## **2.C. Production and control of starting materials**

Starting materials of non-biological origin used in production comply with the pharmacopoeia monograph specifications.

Biological starting materials used are in compliance with the relevant Ph. Eur. monographs and guidelines and are appropriately screened for the absence of extraneous agents according to the "Table of extraneous agents to be tested for in relation to the general and species-specific guidelines on production and control of mammalian veterinary vaccines" (Note for Guidance III/3427/93, 7Blm10a).

Seed lots and cell banks have been produced as described in the relevant guideline.

Scientific data and/or certificates of suitability issued by the EDQM have been provided and compliance with the "Note for Guidance on Minimising the Risk of Transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via Human and Veterinary Medicinal Products" has been satisfactorily demonstrated.

## **2.D. Control tests during the manufacturing process**

The tests performed during production are described in detail.

These tests are as follows:

### **Lyophilisate**

- sterility
- test for mycoplasma
- determination of virus titre
- cell count (CPV-2b)
- virus identity (CPV-2b)
- pH determination (on the vaccine bulk after blending)
- sterility (on the vaccine bulk after blending)

### **Solvent**

There are no in-process controls for the liquid fraction (water for injection).

## **2.E. Control tests on the finished product**

The tests performed on the final product conform to the relevant requirements.

The following tests are performed:

### **Lyophilisate**

- appearance
- test for absence of extraneous agents
- sterility: according to Ph. Eur. 2.6.1

- test for mycoplasma
- virus identity
- determination of virus titre
- determination of residual humidity
- vacuum test

**Solvent**

- appearance
- sterility: according to Ph. Eur. 2.6.1
- test for air tightness
- volume
- test for acidity or alkalinity
- test for conductivity
- test for oxidisable substances
- test for chlorides, nitrates, sulfates, ammonium, calcium, magnesium
- determination of the residue after evaporation
- test for bacterial endotoxins (Ph. Eur. 2.6.14)

**Reconstituted vaccine**

- appearance
- pH determination

**2.F. Batch-to-batch consistency**

The demonstration of the batch to batch consistency is based on the results of three batches produced according to the method described in the dossier.

**2.G. Stability**

Stability data on the finished product have been provided in accordance with applicable European guidelines, demonstrating the stability of the product throughout its shelf life (2 years) when stored under the approved conditions (at 2-8°C).

The vaccine must be used immediately after broaching.

### 3. SAFETY DOCUMENTATION

Versican Plus DHP is a multi-valent vaccine for dogs containing live attenuated canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus type 2 and canine parvovirus type 2b. It is intended for stimulation of an active immunity against infections with canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus and canine parvovirus. The lyophilisate is solved with a solvent (water for injection) and subsequently administered subcutaneously. Dogs from an age of 6 weeks can be vaccinated.

The applicant presented laboratory vaccination studies (safety of a single and repeated dose, overdose, clearance, shed and spread of the vaccine, increase in virulence) and two field studies to support the safety of this vaccine. The safety of a single and repeated dose was demonstrated using the largest combination of the Versican Plus range of vaccines, Versican Plus DHPi/L4R, which includes in addition live attenuated parainfluenzavirus and inactivated rabies and *Leptospira* components. All live virus components of Versican Plus DHP are identical to those contained in Versican Plus DHPi/L4R. This is in compliance with CVMP note for guidance: requirements for combined veterinary vaccines (CVMP/IWP/52/97) and the CVMP Guideline on the requirements for combined vaccines and associations of immunological veterinary medicinal products (IVMPs) (EMA/CVMP/IWP/594618/2010).

Versican Plus DHPi/L4R contains an adjuvant (aluminium hydroxide) which does therefore probably not benefit the safety profile of Versican Plus DHP without adjuvant. In order to avoid animal use for additional safety studies with Versican Plus DHP, the applicant is prepared to accept this disadvantage.

#### 3.B. Pre-clinical studies

The trials have been performed in the target species (dogs).  
All animals used were seronegative to the individual antigens.

The safety of the administration of one dose, an overdose (tenfold dose) and the repeated administration of one dose in the target animal (dog) was demonstrated in laboratory trials.

The animals were allocated to different groups and were administered either a single dose, an overdose or repeat single doses with an interval of several weeks. Unvaccinated animals were used as control groups. All animals were monitored for local and systemic reactions during the studies.

Overall, the vaccine Versican Plus DHP proved to be well tolerated in the target species dog. The local and systemic reactions observed are described in the SPC (Summary of Product Characteristics) and package leaflet under "adverse reactions". The investigation was performed according to the recommendations of Directive 2001/82/EC as amended and the relevant guidelines.



The safety of the veterinary medicinal product has not been established during pregnancy and lactation. Therefore the use is not recommended during pregnancy and lactation. A corresponding note is included in the SPC and package leaflet.

As only the canine parvovirus may have immunosuppressive properties, a study was performed to investigate the immunological properties of the canine parvovirus component. It could be shown that the canine parvovirus has no negative impact on the immune system of the vaccinated dogs.

For each live strain included in the vaccine (canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus type 2 and canine parvovirus type 2b) specific studies were carried out to describe the spread, dissemination in the vaccinated animal, reversion to virulence, biological properties, recombination or genetic reassortment of the vaccine strains. No reversion to virulence of the vaccine antigens was observed in these studies. The live attenuated virus vaccine strains CAV-2 and CPV-2b may be shed by vaccinated animals following vaccination. However, due to the low pathogenicity of these strains, it is not necessary to keep vaccinated dogs separated from non-vaccinated dogs and domestic cats. The vaccine virus strain CPV-2b has not been tested in other carnivores (except dogs and domestic cats) that are known to be susceptible to canine parvoviruses. Therefore vaccinated dogs should be separated from them after vaccination. An appropriate warning is included in the SPC and package leaflet.

After vaccination, hypersensitivity reactions may occur. This is also described in the SPC and package leaflet.

No information is available on the safety and efficacy of this vaccine when used with any other veterinary medicinal product other than Versiguard Rabies and Versican Plus L4. A decision to use this vaccine before or after any other veterinary medicinal product therefore needs to be made on a case by case basis by the veterinarian.

### **3.C. Clinical trials**

Field studies were performed to assess the safety of the vaccine Versican Plus DHP. Dogs of different breeds, genders and ages were vaccinated with Versican Plus DHP according to the vaccination scheme. All animals were observed for local or systemic reactions during the studies.

Overall, the vaccine Versican Plus DHP proved to be well tolerated in the target species dog. The results confirm the observations made in the laboratory studies. The local and systemic reactions observed are described in the SPC and package leaflet under "adverse reactions".

### **3.D. Environmental Risk Assessment**

The applicant provided an environmental risk assessment in compliance with the relevant guideline which showed that the risk for the environment and other animals and species posed by this vaccine can be considered as very low.  
No warnings are therefore required in the SPC and package leaflet.

## 4. EFFICACY DOCUMENTATION

### 4.B Pre-clinical studies

Versican Plus DHP is a multivalent live virus vaccine indicated for the immunisation of healthy puppies from six weeks of age and dogs against canine distemper, adenovirus hepatitis, adenovirus respiratory disease and parvovirus. The vaccine was developed as part of a larger combination (Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R) consisting of live virus components (canine distemper virus (CDV), canine adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2), canine parvovirus (CPV), canine parainfluenzavirus (CPIV)) presented in freeze-dried form in a vial to be reconstituted with a vial of the inactivated components (rabies virus, *Leptospira* Canicola, *Leptospira* Icterohaemorrhagiae, *Leptospira* Bratislava and *Leptospira* Grippotyphosa) presented in liquid form. The adjuvant of the liquid fraction is aluminium hydroxide. Therefore, many studies presented have been conducted with the larger combination. According to the CVMP guideline on multi-component vaccines these can be used to fully support the safety and efficacy of the smaller fall-out combinations.

The live virus components of Versican Plus DHP (canine distemper virus (CDV), canine adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2) and canine parvovirus type 2b (CPV-2b)) are presented in freeze-dried form in a vial to be reconstituted with a vial of the diluent (water for injection). The vaccine Versican Plus DHP itself does not contain any adjuvant.

The efficacy of the product has been demonstrated in laboratory studies in accordance with the following Ph. Eur. monographs:

- Canine distemper virus: Monograph 0448
- Canine adenovirus type 2: Monograph 1951
- Canine parvovirus type 2b: Monograph 0964

The efficacy in the target species dog was demonstrated by means of challenge trials.

#### Onset of immunity

##### CDV:

Seven 6-week old dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), tested seronegative against CDV were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R subcutaneously. They were challenged intravenously with the canine distemper challenge virus CHSV Snyder Hill at Day 21 after vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of distemper. There was no increase in the rectal temperature and a further increase in antibody titres while the control group showed clinical signs of distemper and was euthanized for humane reasons. This study is considered valid because it fulfils the requirements of Ph. Eur. monograph 0448.

CAV-1:

Seven 6-week old dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), tested seronegative against CAV-1 and CAV-2 were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously. They were challenged intravenously with the challenge strain CAV-1 Mirandola at Day 21 after vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of canine hepatitis but one dog developed a slight increase of rectal temperature (39.5°C) above the upper physiological limit of 39.5°C at Day 6 after challenge. There was a further increase in antibody titres while the control group showed clinical signs of canine hepatitis and was euthanized for humane reasons. This study is considered valid because it fulfils the requirements of Ph. Eur. monograph 1951.

CAV-2:

Twenty 6-week old dogs (10 vaccinates and 10 control dogs), tested seronegative against CAV-2 were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously. They were challenged intranasally with the challenge strain CAV-2 Manhattan at Day 21 after vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs and no increase of rectal temperature. There was a further increase in antibody titres against CAV-2 and on virus isolation 5/10 dogs excreted CAV-2 for 1–3 days from Day 3 to Day 6 after challenge. The duration of virus excretion was significantly lower than in the controls. This study is considered valid because it fulfils the requirements of Ph. Eur. monograph 1951.

CPV-2b:

Seven 6-week old dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), tested seronegative against CPV (haemagglutination inhibition (HA) and virus neutralisation (VN)), were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously. They were challenged oronasally with the challenge strain CPV-2b strain 212/98 at Day 21 after vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs and no increase of rectal temperature. There was a further increase in antibody titres against CPV-2b while the white blood cell count demonstrated no leukopenia. On virus isolation and HA 3/5 dogs excreted virus on one day between 3 and 5 days after challenge. This was less than 1/100 of the geometric mean of the maximum titres found in control animals by HA. No isolation of infectious CPV-2b was found in cell culture. This study is considered valid because it fulfils the requirements of Ph. Eur. monograph 0964.

Equivalence study

The objective of this study was the evaluation of the serological and clinical responses to non-adjuvanted Versican Plus DHPPI and Versican Plus Pi fall-out products of the Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R vaccine range after primary vaccination and by challenge with a virulent, heterologous strain of canine parainfluenza virus. As the vaccine Versican Plus DHP does not contain canine parainfluenzavirus, results pertaining to the challenge are not relevant and are therefore not summarised below.

Twenty-five 6-week old dogs (10 dogs vaccinated with Versican Plus DHPPI, 10 dogs vaccinated with Versican Plus Pi and 5 control dogs) were administered the vaccines subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. The serological responses against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV following primary vaccination with the non-adjuvanted Versican Plus DHPPI and Versican Plus Pi fall-out products of Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R vaccine were evaluated and visually compared to the results of historical data from studies with adjuvanted Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R. If the 95% confidence intervals of the geometric mean titres of the non-adjuvanted components of the fall-out products in this study overlap the 95% confidence intervals of the geometric means of the adjuvanted components of Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R in historic studies on at least one time point after primary immunisation, responses were considered to be equivalent.

*CDV serology results:*

At the time of the second vaccination all animals had seroconverted. However, after the second vaccination the titres increased which demonstrates the booster effect of this vaccination.

*CAV-1 and CAV-2 serology results:*

At the time of the second vaccination all animals had seroconverted. However, after the second vaccination the titres increased which demonstrates the booster effect of this vaccination.

*CPV serology results:*

At the time of the second vaccination all animals had seroconverted. However, after the second vaccination the titres increased which demonstrates the booster effect of this vaccination.

*Assessment of the equivalence of the serological data:*

Based on the results of this assessment it can be concluded that the CDV, CAV and CPV components used in the Versican Plus range vaccines protect against canine distemper, adenovirus-induced diseases and parvovirus irrespective of whether they are adjuvanted or non-adjuvanted (95% confidence interval of geometric mean antibody titres against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV-2 of seronegative, vaccinated dogs). This was considered acceptable.

## **Influence of maternally derived antibodies on the efficacy of the vaccine**

The presented studies clearly show the influence of maternally derived antibodies (MDA) regarding CDV, CPV and CAV antigens. While MDA negative dogs seroconvert after the first vaccination and are boosted after the second vaccination, MDA positive dogs show a titre decrease until Days 28–35. Seroconversion is observed from Days 35–42 onwards. Although the animals were protected against challenges with virulent CDV, CPV and CAV-1 strains, the possible interference of MDA should always be taken into consideration when vaccinating very young puppies. The studies demonstrate the importance of the second vaccination as part of the primary vaccination: animals with MDA do not seroconvert after the first vaccination but after the second one. As immunological responses to CDV, CPV and CAV-2 may be delayed due to MDA the vaccination scheme for young dogs -

especially for puppies at 6 weeks of age - should be planned carefully. This has been reflected in the SPC.

## **Duration of immunity**

### One-year duration of immunity studies

#### *CDV:*

Nine 6-week-old dogs (6 vaccinates and 3 control dogs), tested seronegative against CDV were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. They were challenged intravenously with the canine distemper challenge virus CHSV Snyder Hill at 12 months after the second vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of distemper, no increase in rectal temperature above the upper limit (39.5°C) and a satisfactory anamnestic antibody response while the control group showed clinical signs of distemper and was euthanized for humane reasons.

#### *CAV-1:*

Nine 6-week old dogs (6 vaccinates and 3 control dogs), tested seronegative against CAV-1 and CAV-2 were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. They were challenged intravenously with the challenge strain CAV-1 Mirandola at 12 months after the second vaccination. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of canine hepatitis and a satisfactory anamnestic antibody response while the control group showed clinical signs of hepatitis and was euthanized for humane reasons.

#### *CAV-2:*

Twenty 6-week old dogs (10 vaccinates and 10 control dogs), tested seronegative against CAV-1 and CAV-2 were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. They were challenged intranasally with the challenge strain CAV-2 Manhattan at 12 months after the second vaccination. As controls were co-housed with vaccinated animals and therefore served as sentinels, it can be concluded that no concurrent infections with CAV-2 boosted the immunity in vaccinated animals before challenge.

After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of canine hepatitis and a satisfactory anamnestic antibody response. The mean total score was significantly lower in vaccinated animals than in the controls.

Virus isolation: 3/10 vaccinated animals excreted CAV-2 for one day either 2 or 3 days after challenge. Duration of virus excretion: the number of days was significantly lower in vaccinated animals than in the controls.

In the control group 4/10 dogs showed mild nasal discharge and mild ocular discharge starting 2 days after challenge and persisting for up to 4 days until 6 days after challenge. The mean total score of abnormal clinical observations was significantly higher in control than in vaccinated animals. Virus isolation: 10/10 controls excreted CAV-2 for 2–4 days starting 2 until 5 days after challenge. Duration

of virus excretion: the number of days was significantly higher in the controls than in the vaccinates. The area under the curve of CAV-2 titres was significantly higher in control than in vaccinated animals.

#### *CPV-2b:*

Seven 6-week old dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), tested seronegative against CPV (HA and VN) were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. They were challenged oronasally with the challenge strain CPV-2b strain 212/98 at 12 months after the second vaccination. Control animals remained seronegative until challenge. As they were housed together with vaccinated animals, these results confirm that vaccine induced immunity to CPV was not further boosted through concurrent infections with field strains during the study. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs and no increase of rectal temperature. Virus isolation: by HA, 3/5 animals showed CPV excretion for 2 days between 5 and 10 days after challenge. This was less than 1/100 of the geometric mean of the maximum titres found in control animals by HA. By cell culture, 0/5 vaccinated animals excreted infectious CPV.

The control group showed no abnormal clinical signs, there was hyperthermia in 1/2 controls 10 and 11 days after challenge. White blood cell count: leukopenia - white blood cell numbers decreased more than 50% compared to pre-challenge mean values (leukopenia) in 2/2 controls. Virus isolation: by HA, 2/2 controls showed CPV excretion starting 5 days and peaking from 7 to 10 days after challenge. By cell culture, 2/2 controls started to excrete CPV 5 days and peaked 7 days post-challenge.

### **Immunity after revaccination – response to booster**

To demonstrate protective immunity of the components of Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R following re-vaccination (annual booster) with a single dose 12 months after completion of the primary vaccination course laboratory response-to-booster studies in dogs were performed. For the CDV, CAV-2 and CPV components, protective immunity following an annual booster was demonstrated serologically by comparing antibody titres in response to the annual booster with those after primary vaccination. The antibody titres against **CDV** of vaccinated animals 12 months after the second vaccination have declined drastically (two dogs 32, two dogs 8, four dogs 4, two dogs 2 and two dogs < 2). However, after a single booster vaccination the titres increased again and were comparable to those observed three weeks after primary vaccination course.

The antibody titres against **CAV-1** and **CAV-2** of vaccinated animals 12 months after the second vaccination have declined. After a single booster vaccination the titres increased again. They were comparable (even higher) to those observed three weeks after primary vaccination course. However, it should be noted that in this study the titres were lower compared to those of the DOI studies presented in the submitted dossier.

The antibody titres against **CPV** of vaccinated animals 12 months after the second vaccination have declined slightly. After a single booster vaccination the titres

increased again and were comparable to those observed three weeks after primary vaccination course.

### **Three-year duration of immunity studies**

#### CDV:

Twelve 6-7-week-old dogs (10 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), tested seronegative against CDV were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. Three years after the second vaccination 7 adults (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs) and 2 control puppies (14 weeks of age) were challenged intravenously with the canine distemper challenge virus CHSV Snyder Hill. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of distemper, no increase in rectal temperature above the upper limit (39.5°C) and a satisfactory anamnestic antibody response. The adult control group showed clinical signs of distemper. Both control dogs survived the challenge. The puppy control group showed clinical signs of distemper and was euthanized for humane reasons.

#### CAV-1:

Nine 6-week old dogs (6 vaccinates and 3 control dogs), tested seronegative against CAV-1 and CAV-2 were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. Three years after the second vaccination 7 dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs) were challenged intravenously with the challenge strain CAV-1 Mirandola.

After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical signs of canine hepatitis and a satisfactory anamnestic antibody response while the control group showed clinical signs of hepatitis and was euthanized for humane reasons.

#### CAV-2:

No challenge study was performed to demonstrate a three-year duration of immunity of CAV-2. Antibody titres against CAV-2 were determined from the dogs of the CAV-1 DOI study mentioned above. The titres three years after second vaccination were compared with the titres obtained in the one-year DOI study. It was demonstrated that the titres were comparable.

#### CPV-2b:

Nine 6-7-week old dogs (6 vaccinates and 3 control dogs), tested seronegative against CPV (HAI and VN) were administered the vaccine Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R subcutaneously at Day 0 and Day 21. Three years after the second vaccination 7 dogs (5 vaccinates and 2 control dogs) were challenged oronasally with the challenge strain CPV-2b strain 212/98.

Control animals remained seronegative until challenge. As they were housed together with vaccinated animals, these results confirm that vaccine induced immunity to CPV was not further boosted through concurrent infections with field strains during the study. After challenge the vaccinated group showed no clinical



signs, no increase of rectal temperature and no leukopenia. Virus isolation: by HA, 4/5 animals showed CPV excretion for 1-3 days between 3 and 10 days after challenge. This was less than 1/100 of the geometric mean of the maximum titres found in control animals by HA. By cell culture, 0/5 vaccinated animals excreted infectious CPV.

The control group showed clinical signs of canine parvovirus. There was hyperthermia in 1/2 controls 8 days after challenge. White blood cell count: leukopenia - white blood cell numbers decreased more than 50% compared to pre-challenge mean values (leukopenia) in 1/2 controls. Virus isolation: by HA, 2/2 controls showed CPV excretion starting 3 days and peaking from 12 days after challenge. By cell culture, 2/2 controls started to excrete CPV 3 days and peaked 12 days post-challenge.

### **Immunity after revaccination – response to booster**

To demonstrate protective immunity of the components of Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R following re-vaccination with a single dose 3 years after completion of the primary vaccination course a laboratory response-to-booster study in dogs was performed. Twelve 6-7-week old dogs (10 vaccinates and 2 control dogs), seronegative against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV were vaccinated with Versican Plus DHPPI/L4R at Day 0 and Day 21. Three years after the second vaccination 9 dogs (7 vaccinates and 2 control dogs) received a booster vaccination. The titres against **CDV**, **CAV-1**, **CAV-2** and **CPV** declined over time until booster vaccination 3 years after the second vaccination. After booster vaccination, anamnestic responses were observed in all animals against these antigens.

The mean titres against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV after booster vaccination were higher than those after primary vaccination.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the results of the laboratory studies concerning onset and duration of immunity, indications for use and immunisation scheme:

Active immunisation of dogs from 6 weeks of age:

- to prevent mortality and clinical signs caused by canine distemper virus,
- to prevent mortality and clinical signs caused by canine adenovirus type 1,
- to prevent clinical signs and reduce viral excretion caused by canine adenovirus type 2 and
- to prevent clinical signs, leucopenia and viral excretion caused by canine parvovirus.

Onset of immunity:

3 weeks after the first vaccination

Duration of immunity: At least three years following the primary vaccination course for CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV. The duration of immunity against CAV-2 was not established by challenge. It was shown that 3 years after the vaccination CAV-2

antibodies are still present. Protective immune response against CAV-2 associated respiratory disease is considered to last at least 3 years.

### **Vaccination scheme:**

#### Primary vaccination scheme:

Two doses of Versican Plus DHP 3–4 weeks apart from 6 weeks of age.

#### Revaccination scheme:

A single dose of Versican Plus DHP should be given every 3 years.

### **Compatibility**

Versican Plus DHP is compatible with Versican Plus L4 and Versiguard Rabies. As mentioned in Part 3.A, the SPC will include an option to use Versican Plus DHP in combination with these vaccines. The manufacturing processes of Versiguard Rabies are identical to those of the rabies component of Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R. This means that it will only be the number of active ingredients which will be different between Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R and Versican Plus L4 or Versiguard Rabies, and consequently there is no reason to believe that a combination of Versican Plus DHP and Versiguard Rabies or Versican Plus L4 could result in any safety issues. No compatibility studies of Versican Plus DHP with other products were undertaken.

Section 4.8 of the SPC contains the following text:

*No information is available on the safety and efficacy of this vaccine when used with any other veterinary medicinal product other than Versiguard Rabies and Versican Plus L4. A decision to use this vaccine before or after any other veterinary medicinal product therefore needs to be made on a case by case basis by the veterinarian.*

### **4.C. Clinical trials**

Two field studies were performed to demonstrate safety and efficacy of Versican Plus DHP:

The first one was a multi-centre, positively controlled, randomised, blinded field study in two countries (France and Germany), in compliance with CVMP/VICH/595/98 “VICH Topic GL9 Step 7 - Guideline on Good Clinical Practices”.

Field trials (cohort study 1, cohort study 2 and cohort study 3) were carried out in 3 centres in France (FR) and 3 centres in Germany (DE). A total of 128 dogs (FR 63, DE 65) were included in the field trials, i.e. 45 mixed bred and 83 pure bred dogs of 28 breeds including toy breeds, utility/hunting breeds and large breeds; 50 females, 23 neutered females, 41 males and 14 neutered males.

Cohorts were composed as follows:

- Cohort 1: 54 naïve dogs (FR 27, DE 27) with an age range of 8 weeks to 15 years. The dogs were administered two doses of vaccine (V1= Versican Plus DHPPi/L4; V2= Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R) 3–4 weeks apart followed by the owner observations;

- Cohort 2: 41 dogs (FR 21, DE 20) with an age range of 1 year to 11 years. The dogs were administered one annual booster vaccination (Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R), followed by the owner observations;
- Cohort 3: 33 naïve puppies (FR 15, DE 18) with an age range of 8 to 9 weeks. The dogs were administered two doses of vaccine (V1= Versican Plus DHPPi/L4; V2= Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R) 3–4 weeks apart, followed by observations through trained personnel.

For ethical reasons no unvaccinated dogs were included in the study and competitor vaccines were used in the controls for antibody comparison. Competitors vaccines used in France were Enduracell 7 and Enduracell 8 and in Germany were Vanguard 7 and Vanguard R.

Serological control tests were performed on cohort 1 and 3 before the first and the second vaccination (V1 and V2) (on the same day of vaccinations) and 21 days after the second vaccination (V2+21). Serological control tests were performed on cohort 2, before the annual booster vaccination (V1) (on the same day of vaccination) and 21 days after it (V1+21). Efficacy was assessed by measuring antibody responses and comparing titres before and after vaccination with Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R or the comparator vaccine. The antibody response by means of seroneutralisation (SN) test was categorised as follows:

- No increase.
- Increase 1: < 2-fold increase of CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2, CPV antibodies (SN).
- Increase 2: ≥ 2-fold increase of CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2, CPV antibodies (SN).

Only results relevant to the components of Versican Plus DHP are summarised below.

#### Results in naïve puppies

Forty-four dogs aged from 8 weeks to 6 months, (without a previous history of vaccination were selected from cohort 1 (11 dogs, 7 of which vaccinated with Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R and 4 with a competitor vaccine) and cohort 3 (33 dogs vaccinated with Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R). Serological results are reported hereafter:

##### *Puppies without MDA:*

- 100% of the puppies showed full serological response (Increase 2) against the live viral components CDV, CAV-2, CPV - the proportions of puppies without MDA responding to Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R were greater and their responses generally higher than those following vaccination with comparator products.

##### *Puppies with MDA:*

- 100% of the puppies showed full response (Increase 2) to primary immunisation (V1+V2) against CAV-1 (n=5) and CAV-2 (n=8).
- 20% of puppies did not show an antibody increase against CDV (n=1) and CPV (n=5):

CDV: The animal had an antibody titre of 4 before the first vaccination, was seronegative (< 2) before the second vaccination and had a titre of 4 after the second vaccination, showing that MDA interfered with the first, but not the second vaccination.

CPV: In three puppies MDA interfered with responses after both vaccinations leaving the puppies without any protective antibody levels ( $< 2$ ) after primary immunisation.

The other two pups had higher than average MDA titres before the first vaccination which decreased to levels that allowed them to respond to the second vaccination.

#### Results in naïve dogs (adults and puppies)

Fifty-four unvaccinated dogs (cohort 1) divided in 43 dogs over 6 months of age without a previous history of vaccination or with a previous history of vaccination that had lapsed by more than 14 months and 11 naïve puppies younger than 6 months, showed the following serological results:

Dogs without pre-existing antibodies:

- 100% showed full serological response (Increase 2) after primary immunisation (V1+V2).

Dogs with pre-existing antibodies:

- The proportion of dogs with pre-existing antibodies showed lower serological response (Increase 1 or no increase) if compared to dogs without pre-existing antibodies.

#### Results in previously vaccinated adult dogs

Forty-one dogs of more than 6 months of age, with a previous history of vaccination and requiring an annual booster (cohort 2), showed the following serological results:

Dogs without pre-existing antibodies:

- 100% showed full serological response (Increase 2) against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV.

Dogs with pre-existing antibodies:

- The proportion of dogs with pre-existing antibodies showed lower serological response (Increase 1 or no increase) if compared to dogs without pre-existing antibodies.

#### Conclusions

Evaluable serological data from 86 (out of 128) animals were generated. Since antibody titres from field and laboratory studies were determined using the same assay systems in the same laboratory, it was possible to directly compare field titres with minimum protective titres established in laboratory studies.

The applicant summarised all serological data irrespective of their antibody status pre-vaccination via descriptive statistics and compared the minimally induced antibody titre per antigen with the titre that was fixed as minimum protective titre in the challenge studies.

The results of the field study show that vaccination with Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R induced antibody titres that can be considered protective against CDV, CAV-1 and CAV-2 in 100% of the dogs.

Against CPV, 100% of the adult dogs were protected following an annual booster vaccination (cohort 2) and all adult dogs of cohort 1 were protected following a primary immunisation. Puppies did not all respond with protective antibody levels against CPV (cohorts 1 and 3) because of pre-existing MDA.

The presented field study clearly shows the influence of MDA regarding CDV, CPV and CAV antigens. While the MDA negative dogs mostly seroconvert after the first vaccination and are boosted after the second vaccination, MDA positive dogs react after the second vaccination and in general have lower titres than those without MDAs. The study demonstrates again the importance of the second vaccination as part of the primary vaccination scheme. As immunological responses to CDV, CPV and CAV-2 may be delayed due to MDA, the vaccination scheme for young dogs should be planned carefully. This has been reflected in the SPC.

The second field trial was performed in UK with 1 center. 20 dogs (40-44 days of age, Labrador retrievers, Border collies, 14 females, 6 males) were divided into two groups. 14 dogs were vaccinated with Versican Plus DHPPI/L4 on Day 0 and Day 28. For ethical reasons no unvaccinated dogs were included in the study. Therefore, a competitor vaccine (Duramune DAPPI+LC) was used in the 6 control dogs for antibody comparison. Antibody titres against CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV were determined on the days of vaccinations and 21 days after the second vaccination.

Evaluation:

- CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2, CPV antibodies by virus neutralisation
- cut-off points: < 1:2 or, if not enough serum <1:5
- success criteria: 2-fold increase if seronegative pre first vaccination
- any titre increase if seropositive pre first vaccination

All dogs reached protective antibody titres against the live viral components CDV, CAV-1, CAV-2 and CPV after primary vaccination with Versican Plus DHPPI/L4.

The majority of puppies (15 of 20 puppies; 75%) had MDAs to at least one vaccine component at the time of the first vaccination when they were around 6 weeks of age. MDAs against CPV were found in the majority of puppies (68%). MDAs against CAV-1, CAV-2 and CDV were detected in a minority of puppies (5-26%).

The highest MDA titres were found directed against CPV, followed by in descending order CAV-1 and CDV. MDAs against CAV-2 were detected in one puppy and were low.

All puppies without MDAs responded fully to vaccination with Versican Plus DHPPI/L4 against the live viral components CDV, CAV-2 and CPV.

Puppies with MDAs fully responded to primary immunisation, which consisted of two vaccine administrations 4 weeks apart, against CAV-2 and CPV. A percent of puppies with MDAs did not show an antibody increase to CDV (n=1) and CAV-1 (n=1) following vaccination with Versican Plus DHPPI/L4.

The results of the two field studies confirm the observations made in the laboratory studies. The vaccine Versican Plus DHP proved to be efficacious in the target species dog.

## **5. OVERALL CONCLUSION AND BENEFIT– RISK ASSESSMENT**

The data submitted in the dossier demonstrate that when the product is used in accordance with the Summary of Product Characteristics, the benefit-risk profile for the target species is favourable and the quality and safety of the product for humans and the environment is acceptable.

**POST-AUTHORISATION PROCEDURES****Sequence of significant variations**

Summary of change (Application number)	Approval date
Inclusion of the use during pregnancy and lactation (DE/V/0267/001/WS/002)	13 September 2018
Update of the SPC safety warnings following PSUR review (DE/V/0267/001/WS/003)	13 September 2018
Renewal (DE/V/0267/001/R/001)	10 December 2020
Alignment of the product information of the vaccine Versican Plus DHP with version 9.0 of the QRD template (DE/V/0267/001/A/010)	27 April 2023