1. NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Chronogest CR 20 mg controlled release vaginal sponge for sheep

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each sponge contains:
Active substance:
Flugestone acetate 20 mg

Excipients:

Qualitative composition of excipients and other constituents
Hydroxypropylcellulose
Macrogol 4000
Water for injections

White sponge with continuous chronolone line forming a ring-like structure on the round surface of the sponge (5 - 7 rings per sponge).

3. CLINICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Target species

Sheep (ewes, ewe lambs).

3.2 Indications for use for each target species

In ewes and ewe lambs, in combination with PMSG (Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotrophin)
- Induction and synchronisation of oestrus and ovulation (non-cycling ewes during seasonal anoestrus and ewe lambs).
- Synchronisation of oestrus and ovulation (cycling ewes and ewe-lambs).

3.3 Contraindications

Do not use in pregnant females.

3.4 Special warnings

None.

3.5 Special precautions for use

Special precautions for safe use in the target species:
The use of a vaginal applicator designed for ewes or ewe lambs is recommended to correctly insert sponges and to avoid vaginal injuries.

The repeated treatment with the veterinary medicinal product combined with PMSG may trigger the appearance of PMSG antibodies in some ewes. This in turn may affect the time of ovulation and result in reduced fertility when combined with artificial insemination.

The repeated use of sponges within one year has not been studied.

Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals:
Direct contact with the skin should be avoided. Personal protective clothing, consisting of single use gloves should be worn when handling the veterinary medicinal product. If accidental contact with the skin occurs, wash the affected zone with soap and water. Wash hands after treatment and before meals.
Human exposure to this veterinary medicinal product can affect fertility.
Women who are pregnant, or suspected to be pregnant, should not use the veterinary medicinal product.

Special precautions for the protection of the environment:
Not applicable.

3.6 Adverse events

Sheep (ewes and ewe lambs):

Very rare (<1 animal / 10,000 animals treated, including isolated reports):	Vaginal discharge[1].

[1] Muco-purulent discharge may be observed at sponge removal. It is not associated with clinical signs and does not alter fertility.

Reporting adverse events is important. It allows continuous safety monitoring of a veterinary medicinal product. Reports should be sent, preferably via a veterinarian, to either the marketing authorisation holder or the national competent authority via the national reporting system. See the package leaflet for respective contact details.

3.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

Pregnancy and lactation:
Can be used during lactation.
The use is not recommended during the whole of pregnancy.

3.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The sponges should not be used in conjunction with alcohols, cresols, phenols, sheep dips or similar disinfectants.

3.9 Administration routes and dosage

The dose is one sponge per animal irrespective of body weight, breed, type (dairy or meat) and season.
The sponge is inserted intra-vaginally using an applicator.
Duration of sponge residence is 14 days.
At the end of the administration period, the sponge is gently removed by pulling on its string.
To obtain optimal synchronisation of ovulation, an injection of PMSG (300 - 700 IU) is administered (IM) at the time of sponge removal.
The animals ovulate between 48 to 72 hours after removal of the controlled release device.
In case fixed time AI is applied, insemination at 55 hours after sponge removal is recommended.

Insertion of the sponge using the Chronogest applicator

1. Disinfect the applicator by placing it in prepared disinfectant solution. Concentrated disinfectant is provided in the veterinary medicinal product pack. Wearing protective gloves, compress the sponge and insert into the rear end of the applicator with the string hanging free. Alternatively, the sponge may be inserted into the front of the applicator and the string held along the outside of the applicator.

2. Push the sponge forward until it is just behind the front end of the tube.

3. Lubricate the front end of the applicator with a small quantity of the lubricant provided. Carefully, insert the applicator about 4 -– 6 inches into the vagina. Eject the sponge by gently pushing the rod and holding the applicator firmly. The rod has a stop to prevent damage occurring to the vagina.

4. Remove the rod and then the applicator tube, leaving the drawstring hanging outside the vagina for easy removal.

5. After each insertion the applicator should be wiped clean and placed in the disinfectant solution.

Whilst the sponge is in the ewe, progestagen is absorbed from the sponge through the vaginal wall. After withdrawal of the sponge, a very high percentage of the ewes will come into heat and ovulate between 48 - 72 hours.

Withdrawal of the sponges
At the end of the administration period, remove the sponge by gently pulling on the string.
As each sponge is removed, it is accompanied by a small amount of distinctive smelling fluid. This is an accumulation of vaginal mucus which does not interfere with the ewe's health.

If no string is evident, examine the vagina. If the sponge is still in position, ensure that it is removed.

3.10 Symptoms of overdose (and where applicable, emergency procedures and antidotes)

A five-time overdose of flugestone acetate (100 mg/sponge) did not result in observable side effects.

3.11 Special restrictions for use and special conditions for use, including restrictions on the use of antimicrobial and antiparasitic veterinary medicinal products in order to limit the risk of development of resistance

Not applicable.

3.12 Withdrawal periods

Meat and offal: 2 days after withdrawal of sponges.
Milk: Milk from treated ewes may not be used for human consumption during the 14-day period of treatment. Milk may be used for human consumption from 12 hours after withdrawal of the sponge.

4. PHARMACOLOGICAL INFORMATION

4.1 ATCvet code: QG03D

4.2 Pharmacodynamics

Flugestone acetate is a synthetic analogue of progesterone. It is approximately 20 fold more potent than progesterone and displays progestational activity but no anti-progestational, anti-androgenic or androgenic properties together with a low glucocorticoid activity.

Owing to its binding to the progesterone receptors, flugestone acetate acts by negative feedback on the hypothalamo-pituitary axis, suppressing pituitary release of gonadotrophins and therefore terminal follicular growth and ovulation.

4.3 Pharmacokinetics

Flugestone acetate is readily absorbed during the 12-14 days period of intra-vaginal administration. T_{max} ranges between 8 and 24 h, whereas C_{max} varies between 1.4 and 3.7 ng/ml. Steady state is reached quickly following onset of the treatment. Plasma cronolone concentrations are relatively constant throughout treatment. One day after removal of the sponge, flugestone acetate concentrations have dropped below the limit of quantification (LOQ = 0.04 ng/ml).

Flugestone acetate is metabolised into hydroxylated metabolites, which are excreted in faeces and urine.

5. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

5.1 Major incompatibilities

None known.

5.2 Shelf life

Shelf-life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale: 36 months.
Shelf life after first opening the immediate packaging: use immediately.

5.3 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25 °C.
Store in the original package.

5.4 Nature and composition of immediate packaging

Polyester/aluminium/polyethylene bags containing 10, 25 or 50 sponges.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste.
Use take-back schemes for the disposal of any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived thereof in accordance with local requirements and with any applicable national collection systems.

6. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Intervet Ireland Ltd.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

VPA 10996/011/001

8. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION

30 September 2007

9. DATE OF THE LAST REVISION OF THE SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

23 November 2023

10. CLASSIFICATION OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Veterinary medicinal product subject to prescription.

Detailed information on this veterinary medicinal product is available in the Union Product Database*:* (https://medicines.health.europa.eu/veterinary).