

Use of Gentamycin in horses

From October 2016, there have been multiple reports sent to the BVL including adverse reactions following the intravenous use of Gentamycin in horses.

The affected horses showed, shortly after the intravenous injection of gentamycin, colic-type symptoms like groaning, flehmen, heavy sweating, pawing, tachypnoea, tachycardia, laying down and rolling. Also shivering and muscle tremor was reported. These symptoms indicate to an allergic/anaphylactic reaction in the horse. In most cases these reactions were only temporary with full recovery of the animals in a short time period. In some cases a treatment with corticosteroid was necessary. Also these animals recovered fully in a short time period.

At present there is increased reporting of such events following intravenous use of gentamycin from different pharmaceutical companies. The underlying reason is not clear yet. An underlying quality issue has been ruled out through routine testing.

In SPCs of gentamycin containing products it can be described that the intravenous use in horses can lead to allergic and anaphylactic reactions and neuromuscular blocks. For the intravenous administration of gentamycin in horses it is pointed out to pre-warm the solution and to inject slowly.

In case of an allergic or anaphylactic reaction it is recommended in the SPCs to immediately stop the injection and to initiate an appropriate treatment with epinephrine (Adrenalin), antihistaminic products or glucocorticoids.