Summary of Product Characteristics

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

For full list of excipients, see section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Vaginal sponge

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

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Target Species

Sheep (ewes, ewe lambs)

4.2 Indications for use, specifying the target species

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

4.3 Contraindications

The use in pregnant females is contraindicated.

4.4 Special warnings for each 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.

4.5 Special precautions for use

Special precautions for use in animals

The repeated treatment with the 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 (single use gloves) should be worn when handling the 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 product can affect fertility.
- Women who are pregnant, or suspected to be pregnant, should not use the product.

4.6 Adverse reactions (frequency and seriousness)

A muco-purulent discharge may occasionally be observed at sponge removal. It is not associated with clinical signs and does not alter fertility.

4.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

Can be used during lactation.
The use is not recommended during gestation

4.8 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

4.9 Amounts to be administered and administration route

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 an optimal synchronization of ovulation, an injection of PMSG (300-700 I.U.) is administered (i.m.) 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 h 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 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 in to 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" in to 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.

NB Do not use alcohols, cresols, phenols, sheep dips or similar disinfectants.

Whilst the sponge is in the ewe, the 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

Remove the Chronogest 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.

4.10 Overdose (symptoms, emergency procedures, antidotes), if necessary

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

4.11 Withdrawal Period(s)

For slaughter: 2 days after withdrawal of sponges.
For 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.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL or IMMUNOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: progestagen
ATC vet code: QG03D

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 feed back on the hypothalamo-pituitary axis, suppressing pituitary release of gonadotrophins and therefore terminal follicular growth and ovulation.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

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 Chronogest CR, 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.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Hydroxypropylcellulose
Macrogol 4000
Water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

None known.

6.3 Shelf-life

Shelf-life of the veterinary product as packaged for sale: 36 months.
Once packaging is open, any unused product should be discarded immediately.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

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

6.5 Nature and composition of immediate packaging

Bags made of polyester/aluminium/polyethylene containing 10, 25 or 50 sponges.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for the disposal of unused veterinary medicinal products or waste materials

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with national requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

INTERVET IRELAND Ltd.
Magna Drive
Magna Business Park
Citywest Road
Dublin 24

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

VPA 10996/011/001

9 DATE OF THE FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

30th September 2007

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

June 2014