

# Summary of Product Characteristics

## 1 NAME OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCT

SEDATOR, 1.0 mg/ml, solution for injection for cats and dogs

## 2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 ml contains:

### Active substance

Medetomidine hydrochloride 1.0 mg

### Excipients

Methyl parahydroxybenzoate (E 218) 1.0 mg

Propyl parahydroxybenzoate 0.2 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1

## 3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection.

Clear and colourless solution.

## 4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Target Species

Dogs, cats.

### 4.2 Indications for use, specifying the target species

*Dogs:* for restraint, sedation and analgesia associated with clinical examinations and procedures, minor surgery, pre-anaesthesia and as a premedication before thiopentone-halothane general anaesthesia and as a premedicant before general anaesthesia with propofol. In combination with butorphanol for sedation, analgesia and as a premedicant to thiopentone anaesthesia.

*Cats:* for restraint and sedation. In combination with ketamine for induction of general anaesthesia prior to surgical procedures in the cat. In combination with butorphanol for sedation and analgesia, and combined with both butorphanol and ketamine for general anaesthesia. As a premedication before alphaxalone/alphadolone for general anaesthesia.

### 4.3 Contraindications

Do not use in conjunction with sympathomimetic amines. Care should be taken with the use of medetomidine in animals with cardiovascular disease or in poor general health.

Before using any combinations consult the contraindications and warnings that appear on the other products' data sheet.

Medetomidine should not be used with thiopentone or propofol in animals with cardiac or respiratory disease (see also section 4.10).

### 4.4 Special warnings for each target species

An appropriately graduated syringe must be used to allow accurate administration of the required dose volume. This is particularly important when injecting small volumes

### MEDETOMIDINE WITH KETAMINE IN CATS

Medetomidine and ketamine are metabolised in the liver and excreted mainly via the kidneys, therefore any pre-existing hepatic or renal pathology must be carefully evaluated before considering this method of anaesthesia. Vomiting prior to onset of anaesthesia occurs in approximately 10% of cases. Laryngeal and pharyngeal reflexes are retained during anaesthesia. The combination is reported to elicit a pain response in some cats when administered intramuscularly. Heart rates will generally fall to approximately 50% of pre-anaesthetic levels and in some cats very slow respiratory rates are observed (4-6 breaths per minute). Where procedures are prolonged it may be helpful to apply an eye preparation at regular intervals to lubricate the cornea. During and after anaesthesia, treated animals should be kept in a warm and even temperature.

Medetomidine must not be mixed with other ketamine products, with the exception of Vetalar.

#### MEDETOMIDINE AS A PREMEDICANT BEFORE THIOPENTONE IN DOGS

Anaesthesia being maintained with halothane (with or without nitrous oxide). This regime should not be used in animals with cardiovascular or respiratory disease. Medetomidine and thiopentone are metabolised in the liver and excreted via the kidneys; any pre-existing hepatic or renal pathology must be carefully evaluated before considering this method of anaesthesia. Medetomidine has marked anaesthetic sparing effects. Therefore, it should be ensured that the dose of thiopentone and halothane is reduced accordingly and is administered with care to minimise the possibility of inadvertent overdosage. Respiratory rates may fall by up to 30% of pre-dose values following administration of medetomidine. Heart rates will fall following the administration of medetomidine and they will not return to pre-sedation levels following induction. Occasionally there will be a transient rise in heart rate associated with induction followed by bradycardia. During and after anaesthesia, treated animals should be kept in warm and even temperature.

#### MEDETOMIDINE AS A PREMEDICANT BEFORE PROPOFOL IN DOGS

This regime should not be used in animals with cardiovascular or respiratory disease. Medetomidine and propofol are metabolised in the liver and excreted via the kidneys; any pre-existing hepatic or renal pathology must be carefully evaluated before considering this method of anaesthesia. Medetomidine has marked anaesthetic sparing effects, therefore it should be ensured that the dose of propofol is reduced accordingly and is administered with care to minimise the possibility of inadvertent overdosage.

Transient apnoea and movement of the forelegs may occur during induction of anaesthesia and in some cases at higher dosages, a decline in arterial oxygen tension may occur. When using this regime dogs should be intubated and oxygen administered during anaesthesia.

During and after anaesthesia, treated animals should be kept in a warm and even temperature.

### **4.5 Special precautions for use**

#### **Special precautions for use in animals**

Care should be taken with the use of medetomidine in animals with cardiovascular disease or in poor general health. Medetomidine, ketamine and thiopentone are metabolised in the liver and excreted mainly via the kidneys. Pre-existing liver or kidney pathology should be carefully evaluated prior to using these products (see also section 4.7 and 4.10).

#### **Special precautions to be taken by the person administering the veterinary medicinal product to animals**

##### To the user:

In the case of accidental ingestion or self-injection, seek medical advice immediately and show the package leaflet or the label to the physician, but DO NOT DRIVE as sedation and changes in blood pressure may occur.

Avoid skin, eye or mucosal contact.

Immediately after exposure, wash the exposed skin with large amounts of fresh water.

In the case of accidental contact of the product with eyes, rinse with large amounts of fresh water. If symptoms occur, seek the advice of a doctor.

If pregnant women handle the product, special caution should be observed not to self inject as uterine contractions and decreased foetal blood pressure may occur after accidental systemic exposure.

##### To the physician:

Medetomidine is an  $\alpha_2$ -adrenoreceptor agonist. Symptoms after absorption may involve clinical effects including dose-dependent sedation, respiratory depression, bradycardia, hypotension, a dry mouth and hyperglycaemia. Ventricular arrhythmias have also been reported. Respiratory and haemodynamic symptoms should be treated symptomatically.

### **4.6 Adverse reactions (frequency and seriousness)**

By virtue of this  $\alpha_2$ -adrenergic activity, medetomidine causes bradycardia and hypothermia. It may also affect cardiac conductivity. Treated animals should be kept in a warm and even temperature during the procedures and for 12 hours after sedation.

Blood pressure will increase initially and then return to normal or slightly below. Some dogs and most cats vomit 5-10 minutes after injection.

Some cats may also vomit on recovery.

In some dogs and cats very slow respiratory rates may be seen (see also section 4.10).

Diuresis may be associated with recovery.

**4.7 Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay**

The use of medetomidine in pregnancy has not been monitored in a sufficient number of animals. It is therefore not recommended.

**4.8 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions**

Medetomidine should not be used in conjunction with sympathomimetic amines. The concomitant use of other central nervous system depressants should be expected to potentiate the effect of either product and appropriate dose adjustment should be made.

Medetomidine has marked anaesthetic sparing effects. The dose of compounds such as thiopentone, halothane and propofol should be reduced accordingly.

**4.9 Amounts to be administered and administration route**

Intended for injection by intramuscular, intravenous and subcutaneous routes in the dog, and by the intramuscular or subcutaneous route in the cat.

*Dosage:* the following dose ranges are recommended:

Species	Dose	Effect	Volume
Dog	10 - 30 µg/kg	Slight sedation	0.1 - 0.3 ml/10 kg
	30 - 80 µg/kg	Moderate to deep sedation and analgesia	0.3 - 0.8 ml/10 kg
	10 - 20 µg/kg	Pre-anaesthesia	0.1 - 0.2 ml/10 kg
Cat	50 - 100 µg/kg	Moderate sedation	0.25 - 0.5 ml/5 kg
	100 - 150 µg/kg	Deep sedation	0.50 - 0.75 ml/5 kg

Maximal effect is obtained within 10-15 minutes. The clinically useful effect is dose-dependent, lasting 30-180 minutes, but may be repeated if necessary.

Animals should be fasted for 12 hours prior to anaesthesia.

An appropriately graduated syringe must be used to allow accurate administration of the required dose volume. This is particularly important when injecting small volumes.

*Premedication dosing guide: Medetomidine has marked anaesthetic-sparing effects. It is essential to reduce appropriately the dose of anaesthetic induction and maintenance agents in animals that have been given the product.*

*Dosing guide:*

**MEDETOMIDINE AS A PREMEDICANT BEFORE THIOPENTONE IN DOGS**

Anaesthesia is maintained with halothane, with or without nitrous oxide.

Medetomidine is administered at least 20 minutes before thiopentone (inducing agent) to allow sedation to develop. Guideline doses of thiopentone are as follows:

<b>Medetomidine</b>		
Dose µg/kg	Volume of product in ml/10kg	Dose of thiopentone in mg/kg
10	0.1	6.9
20	0.2	4.5

40	0.4	2.4

The dose of thiopentone may vary considerably in different animals. The optimum dose of medetomidine is in the range 20-40 µg/kg and is dependent on the temperament of the dog. At higher doses of medetomidine, thiopentone may not be required for intubation.

Thiopentone is administered slowly as a dilute solution, intravenously to effect, over a period of 30-45 seconds. Once jaw relaxation is adequate, tracheal intubation can be undertaken. Onset of unconsciousness may be delayed for up to 1 minute following injection of thiopentone, slow intravenous injection is therefore required as indicated above. After intubation, anaesthesia may be maintained with halothane in oxygen (with or without nitrous oxide) administered to effect. Recovery from anaesthesia may take 20 or more than 60 minutes. For recoveries in excess of 1 hour it is advisable to administer atipamezole.

#### MEDETOMIDINE AS PREMEDICANT BEFORE PROPOFOL IN DOGS

Medetomidine is administered either intravenously at least 10 minutes before intravenous propofol (induction agent) or intramuscularly at least 20 minutes before propofol to allow sedation to develop. Medetomidine may be administered at a dose rate of 10, 20 or 40 micrograms/kg. The following table is a guideline for doses:

<b>Medetomidine</b>		<b>Propofol (Induction)</b>
Dose in µg/kg	Volume of product in ml/10kg	Dose of propofol in mg/kg
10	0.1	1.5
20	0.2	1.1
40	0.4	1.0

Following premedication with medetomidine, doses of propofol of up to 4 mg/kg administered intravenously have been safely used when a greater depth of anaesthesia is required.

NB. The induction time is increased following premedication, so propofol should be administered by slow intravenous injection and up to 2.5 minutes should be allowed before a further dose is given.

Once jaw relaxation is adequate, tracheal intubation can be undertaken. It is advisable to administer oxygen during anaesthesia. For maintenance of anaesthesia the dose of propofol is markedly reduced by medetomidine premedication. Infusion doses of 0.06 to 0.35 mg/kg/minute will provide stable anaesthesia for dogs sedated with between 40 and 10 µg/kg medetomidine respectively. For intermittent bolus administration, a dose of 1 mg/kg of propofol at intervals of between 4 and 12 minutes will provide stable anaesthesia.

Recovery from anaesthesia may take from 20 to > 60 minutes.

Food should be withheld for 12 hours prior to anaesthesia.

Atipamezole administered in the post-operative phase will hasten the recovery from anaesthesia.

#### MEDETOMIDINE WITH BUTORPHANOL FOR CANINE SEDATION

Medetomidine and butorphanol can be administered together in the same syringe, by intramuscular or intravenous injection. Dose rate: Medetomidine 10-25 µg/kg, depending on the degree of sedation required, plus 0.1 mg/kg butorphanol. Allow 20 minutes for sedation to develop before commencing the procedure.

Reversal with an equal volume of Atipamezole to that of the product used results in sternal recumbency approximately 5 minutes later and standing approximately a further 2 minutes later.

#### MEDETOMIDINE WITH BUTORPHANOL FOLLOWED BY THIOPENTONE ANAESTHESIA FOR CANINE SEDATION

Dose rate: Medetomidine 10 µg/kg and butorphanol 0.1 mg/kg

Medetomidine and butorphanol can be administered together in the same syringe, by intramuscular or intravenous injection. Allow 20 minutes for sedation to develop before administering thiopentone. Atipamezole administered in the post-operative phase will hasten recovery from anaesthesia.

Canine doses (ml) for mild sedation, or premedication prior to thiopentone:

<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>
Sedator 1 mg/ml (dose of medetomidine 10 µg/kg)	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml (dose of butorphanol 0.1 mg/kg)	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40

Canine doses (ml) for deep sedation:

<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>
Sedator 1 mg/ml (dose of medetomidine 25 µg/kg)	0.03	0.08	0.13	0.25	0.38	0.50	0.63	0.75	0.88	1.00
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml (dose of butorphanol 0.1 mg/kg)	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40

#### MEDETOMIDINE WITH BUTORPHANOL FOR FELINE SEDATION

Medetomidine and butorphanol can be administered together in the same syringe, by intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.

Dose rate: Medetomidine 50 µg/kg, depending on the degree of sedation required, plus 0.40 mg/kg butorphanol. Allow 20 minutes for sedation to develop before commencing the procedure.

Local anaesthetic infiltration should be used for wound suturing.

Reversal with half volume of Atipamezole 5 mg/ml to that of product used, results in sternal recumbency approximately 4 minutes later and standing approximately a further 2 minutes later.

Feline doses (ml) for medetomidine/butorphanol sedation:

<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5</b>
Sedator 1 mg/ml (dose of medetomidine 50 µg/kg)	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.20	0.23	0.25
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml (dose of butorphanol 0.4 mg/kg)	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.16	0.18	0.20

#### MEDETOMIDINE WITH KETAMINE IN CATS

The agents may be given concomitantly, in the same syringe, by the intramuscular route. To minimise the risk of cross contamination between vials, insert separate needles into each vial for withdrawal. A dose of 80 µg/kg is recommended for medetomidine, with 2.5-7.5 mg/kg ketamine giving onset of anaesthesia in 3-4 minutes and a duration of 30-50 minutes for surgical procedures.

Anaesthesia may be prolonged, if required, with halothane and oxygen, with or without nitrous oxide.

Atropine is not normally necessary when using a medetomidine/ketamine combination. Food should be withheld for 12 hours prior to anaesthesia.

## MEDETOMIDINE, BUTORPHANOL AND KETAMINE FOR FELINE ANAESTHESIA

### *a) Intramuscular*

Dosage: Medetomidine 80 µg/kg, butorphanol 0.4 mg/kg and ketamine 5 mg/kg can be given in a single syringe.

Cats become recumbent in 2-3 minutes following injection. Loss of pedal reflex occurs 3 minutes post injection.

Reversal by 200 µg/kg atipamezole results in return of pedal reflex 2 minutes later, sternal recumbency 6 minutes later and standing 31 minutes later.

Feline doses (ml) for intramuscular medetomidine/butorphanol/ketamine anaesthesia:

<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5</b>
Sedator 1 mg/ml (dose of medetomidine 80 µg/kg)	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.20	0.24	0.28	0.32	0.36	0.40
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml (dose of butorphanol 0.4 mg/kg)	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.16	0.18	0.20
Ketamine 100 mg/ml (dose of ketamine 5 mg/kg)	0.05	0.075	0.10	0.125	0.15	0.175	0.20	0.225	0.25

### *b) Intravenous*

Dosage: Medetomidine 40 µg/kg, butorphanol 0.1 mg/kg and ketamine from 1.25 to 2.5 mg/kg (depending on depth of anaesthesia required).

Reversal by 100 µg/kg of atipamezole results in return of pedal reflex 4 minutes later, sternal recumbency 7 minutes later and standing 18 minutes later.

Feline doses (ml) for intravenous medetomidine/butorphanol/ketamine anaesthesia:

<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5</b>
Sedator 1 mg/ml (dose of medetomidine 40 µg/kg)	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.16	0.18	0.20
Butorphanol 10 mg/ml (dose of butorphanol 0.1 mg/kg)	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
EITHER Ketamine 100 mg/ml (dose of ketamine 1.25mg/kg)	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06
OR Ketamine 100 mg/ml (dose of ketamine 2.5 mg/kg)	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.13

Approximate time scales in intravenous medetomidine/butorphanol/ketamine anaesthesia:

Ketamine dose	Time to recumbency	Time to loss of pedal reflex	Time to return of pedal reflex	Time to sternal recumbency	Time to standing
1.25 mg/kg	32 secs	62 secs	26 mins	54 mins	74 mins
2.5 mg/kg	22 secs	39 secs	28 mins	62 mins	83 mins

**MEDETOMIDINE FOLLOWED BY ALPHAXALONE/ALPHADOLONE FOR GENERAL ANAESTHESIA**

Dosage: Administer medetomidine 80 µg/kg by intramuscular or subcutaneous injection. 15-60 minutes later administer 2.5-5.0 mg/kg alphaxalone/alphadolone intravenously. Anaesthesia may be maintained by further intravenous injections of alphaxalone/alphadolone, or by administration of halothane in oxygen.

Feline doses (ml) for medetomidine/alphaxalone/alphadolone anaesthesia:

Weight (kg)		1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
Sedator 1mg/ml (medetomidine)	80 µg/kg	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.20	0.24	0.28	0.32	0.36	0.40
Alp Alphaxalone 9mg/ml /Alphadolone 3mg/ml	minimum dose = 2.5 mg/kg	0.21	0.31	0.42	0.52	0.63	0.73	0.83	0.94	1.04
Alphaxalone 9mg/ml /Alphadolone 3mg/ml	maximum dose = 5 mg/kg	0.42	0.63	0.83	1.04	1.25	1.46	1.67	1.88	2.08

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

In cases of overdosage, or if the effects of medetomidine become life-threatening, the appropriate dose of atipamezole is recommended provided that reversal of sedation and analgesia is not dangerous to the patient. For example, atipamezole does not reverse the effects of ketamine. If it is imperative to reverse bradycardia but to maintain sedation, atropine may be used.

**4.11 Withdrawal period(s)**

Not applicable.

**5 PHARMACOLOGICAL or IMMUNOLOGICAL PROPERTIES****5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: sedative and analgesic.

ATCvet code: QN05CM91

Medetomidine is a potent and highly selective  $\alpha_2$ -adrenoreceptor agonist with both central and peripheral activity, and acting both presynaptically and postsynaptically. Its primary effects are sedative and analgesic resulting from its central depressant activity.

It has no local anaesthetic properties. Like other compounds of its class there are secondary effects, including bradycardia. Blood pressure is increased but then returns to normal or just below. Body temperature is decreased in a dose dependent manner and intestinal motility is also reduced.

## **6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Methyl parahydroxybenzoate (E 218),  
Propyl parahydroxybenzoate,  
Sodium chloride,  
Sodium hydroxide,  
Hydrochloric acid,  
Water for injections

### **6.2 Major incompatibilities**

Medetomidine must not be mixed with other products with the exception of Vetalar and Torbugesic injection.

### **6.3 Shelf-life**

Shelf-life of the veterinary medicinal product as packaged for sale: 2 years.  
Shelf-life after first opening the immediate packaging: 28 days.

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Keep the vial in the outer carton. This veterinary medicinal product does not require any special temperature storage conditions.

### **6.5 Nature and composition of immediate packaging**

Clear colourless, sterile aqueous solution and presented in a Type I clear glass vials of 5, 10 and 20 ml capacity, each packed in a cardboard box. Vials are fitted with a teflon coated halogenated rubber stopper and sealed with an aluminium cap. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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

Any unused veterinary medicinal product or waste materials derived from such veterinary medicinal products should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## **7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Eurovet Animal Health B.V.  
Handelsweg 25  
5531 AE Bladel  
Netherlands

## **8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

VPA10989/057/001

## **9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 26 September 2008  
Date of last renewal: 14 September 2012

## **10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

March 2019