



Scabivax™

Contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf) Vaccine (Living) BP (Vet).

IMPORTANT: READ BEFORE USE

Presentation

A blue/green coloured fluid vaccine, containing a suspension of living Orf virus particles in buffered glycerol-saline.

Uses

To aid in the control of contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf) in sheep.

Dosage and Methods of Administration

Vaccination Programmes:

Orf is a disease which can affect all ages of sheep, but is most common in both lambs and on ewes' teats at lambing time. Because it is highly infectious and difficult to treat, regular vaccination is the best means of control on affected farms. SCABIVAX® should be used 3-4 weeks before the disease symptoms normally develop, but it may also be used to protect in-contact sheep in flocks where the disease has appeared.

Lambs: Lambs may be vaccinated at any time from birth once the birth fluids have dried.

Ewes: Ewes should be vaccinated before disease is anticipated but not during the last eight weeks of pregnancy.

In a disease outbreak draft off all affected animals, keep in isolation from the main flock and if necessary treat lesions until they dry up and heal. The remainder of the flock should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

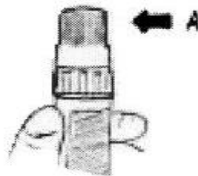
However, some animals may show typical signs of Orf following vaccination due to infection becoming established before immunity develops. These animals should also be drafted into the isolated group of infected sheep.

Booster vaccination:

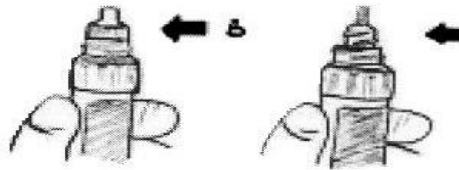
On most properties Orf is only a problem during a limited period of the year and annual vaccination usually proves adequate. However, in circumstances where a severe and constant disease risk exists booster doses should be given at 5-6 monthly intervals.

Administration

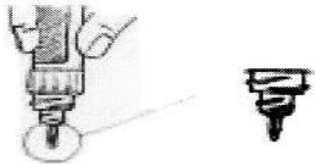
1. Unscrew the cap A (Fig. 1)



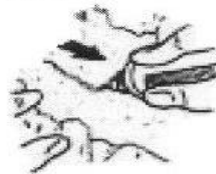
2. Unscrew the cap B (Fig. 2)



3. Invert and tap applicator to allow a drop of vaccine to appear between the two prongs at the end of the applicator (Fig 3)



4. Make a 1" (2.5 cm) scratch on the skin at the site of vaccination using the bevelled edge of the applicator (Fig. 4).



5. For young lambs make a single 1" (2.5 cm) scratch (Fig. 4). See 'special note 1' below.

6. For ewes make two 1" (2.5 cm) scratches in the form of a cross (Fig. 5). The second scratch is important, as it is at the point where the two scratches cross that the vaccine is most likely to gain entry.



The recommended sites of vaccination are:

1. *Pregnant ewes*, or ewes with lambs at foot should be vaccinated on the outside of the fold of skin found on either side of the underside of the base of the tail. This minimises the handling of pregnant ewes and in those with lambs at foot reduces the chance of lambs becoming infected through contact with the ewes vaccination site. Ewes should not be vaccinated at this site less than eight weeks before, or during, tupping.
2. *Young (i.e. unweaned) lambs* should be vaccinated on the skin between the top of the foreleg and the chest wall, as this area is seldom nuzzled by other lambs or ewes.
3. *Older lambs and other classes of ewes* can conveniently be vaccinated on the skin of the inner aspect of the thigh.

Special Notes:

1. Where lambs of less than 2 (two) weeks of age are being vaccinated it is suggested that only one vaccination scratch is applied (Fig. 4).
2. Before each scratch make sure that the end of the applicator is loaded with vaccine.
3. Make the scratch in the skin sufficiently deep to ensure that the surface is broken and that the vaccine is deposited in the scratch. If the vaccine has been correctly applied the vaccine colouration should be apparent along the entire length of each scratch.
4. Check the prongs regularly for good vaccine flow. Any build-up of grease and wool will clog the applicator and prevent it from holding sufficient vaccine. This can be removed with a clean sponge.
5. Scabivax is a living virus vaccine and the vaccination site must not be contaminated with disinfectants or insecticides (dips) as these would inactivate the vaccine.
6. 7 - 10 days after vaccination a random sample of the flock should be examined to ensure that there has been a satisfactory vaccine 'take'. This appears as a raised area of the skin, whitish in colour (Fig. 6). The thin brown line of a healing scratch is not sufficient (Fig. 7). Sheep which do not show a satisfactory reaction may have developed immunity before vaccination but should be revaccinated in case the failure of a satisfactory 'take' was due to faulty vaccination technique.

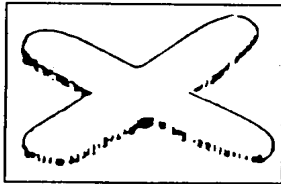


Fig. 6.

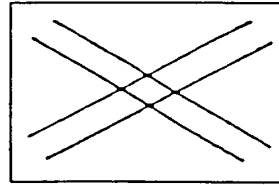


Fig. 7.

7. The vaccination of housed lambs should be delayed where possible until turnout to avoid contamination of the buildings.

Contra-indications, warnings, etc

Contra-indications:

The vaccine **SHOULD NOT BE USED** on farms or in flocks where Orf is not a problem. Do not vaccinate ewes less than 8 weeks before lambing.

Warnings:

For a period of 8 weeks following vaccination, animals will shed virus and virus infected scabs. During this period vaccinated ewes should not be given access to the lambing pens or pasture where ewes and their lambs will subsequently be grazed.

Vaccinated animals should not be allowed to come into contact with unvaccinated animals for at least eight weeks after vaccination.

Experience suggests that where Orf is a problem in ewes and/or lambs in a lambing flock, vaccination of both ewes and lambs is necessary. It should be realised however, that by vaccinating young lambs an opportunity may arise for disease to be passed to ewes' udders.

For animal treatment only.

Keep out of reach of children.

Operator warnings:

Orf is transmissible to man. Thus care should be taken when handling or using the vaccine. Vaccinators should wear gloves during vaccination and the hands and arms should be carefully washed after vaccination has been completed. Special care should be taken to avoid contamination if any cuts or scratches are present on the hands.

Adverse reactions:

Since Scabivax is a living strain of the Orf virus, mild lesions of Orf may occasionally develop in sheep shortly after vaccination, but these will resolve in three weeks.

Pharmaceutical precautions

Store between +2°C and 8°C, protected from light.

If the contents of the vial are partly used the protective cap should be replaced and the vaccine may be used the following day but not thereafter. On completion of vaccination all empty or partially used vials should be carefully disposed of, preferably by burial or incineration.

Legal category

POM

IM

Licensed Merchant (Ire)

Package quantities

1 x 50 dose dose pack with integral applicator

Further information

There is no evidence to suggest that immunity against Orf is transmitted from a ewe to her offspring. Therefore, if Orf is a problem in the lamb flock as well as the ewe flock, the lambs should also be vaccinated.

The immunity which results from the use of Scabivax is not necessarily absolute, although in most cases it is sufficient to control or reduce the severity of disease outbreaks. Animals may develop Orf after vaccination but the severity and duration for the disease is usually less than in non-vaccinated animals.

In any animal population there may be a small number of individuals which fail to respond fully to vaccination. Successful vaccination depends upon correct storage and administration of the vaccine together with the animal's ability to respond. This can be influenced by such factors as genetic constitution, intercurrent infection, age, the presence of maternally-derived antibodies, nutritional status, concurrent drug therapy and stress.

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