



New Formulation of Pergolide Available

FDA Approved Option on Shelves

First, you might be asking, what is Pergolide and what is it used for? Pergolide is a medication that is considered the gold standard therapy for Equine Cushing's Disease, or PPID (pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction). This is the most widespread problem affecting the endocrine (hormonal) system of horses and ponies greater than 15 years of age. With Cushing's, the horse's ability to secrete normal amounts of hormones is interrupted, resulting in abnormally high levels of certain hormones in the bloodstream, which then results in the clinical signs associated with the disease. One of the most common signs of this disease is development of an abnormal hair coat, ranging from slower coat shedding to a curly, extremely long, thick hair coat; also known as "hirsutism." Abnormal fat deposition is another classic symptom, including a pot-bellied appearance and abnormal fat bulging above the eyes. Other clinical signs include, but are not limited to, repeated episodes of laminitis ("founder"), lethargy, poor performance, loss of muscle tone, recurring infections, excessive sweating, increased appetite and excessive drinking and urination. The early signs can be easily missed, potentially resulting in more severe complications. Regular veterinary wellness exams will facilitate earlier diagnosis, thereby reducing the risk of laminitis and other serious complications. If you have any questions about whether or not your horse may be suffering from Cushing's, or if you would like more information, please call us today.

Pergolide is the treatment of choice for horses with Cushing's disease. It acts directly on the nerves in the brain to decrease levels of certain hormones in the bloodstream, especially cortisol, thereby returning them to normal levels.

Up until now, the only way to obtain Pergolide in an effective form for horses was to acquire it through a compounding pharmacy, given that there was no FDA approved form available. Compounding is the creation of a customized medication prepared by a pharmacist according to a doctor's specifications to meet a patient's needs. This is commonly done in veterinary medicine because many medications are not commercially available in labeled forms for animals. For those of you who purchase pergolide directly from Dover Equine, you are familiar with Precision Pharmacy's powder version. We choose Precision based on its excellent reputation for outstanding quality control. This includes ensuring that every compounded batch of medication is individually tested to ensure proper potency and purity of their products.

Recently, Boehringer Ingelheim has unveiled their new, FDA approved, licensed pergolide formulation called Prascend®. Prascend® is a 1mg easy-to-dose oral tablet. For more information, please visit their [website](#) or contact us.



What does this mean for you and your horse? Most compounding pharmacies, including Precision, will continue making flavored pergolide powder, liquid and other formulations. However, many compounding pharmacies will be discontinuing the 1mg pergolide capsules. If your horse is on a capsule preparation, please contact either us or your compounding pharmacy regarding the continued availability or future changes to your current pergolide product. If you have questions about switching your horse to Prascend®, please call us at 333-0333 or 769-2433 for details including pricing options and availability. Feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns.