

Cromolyn

Cromolyn (sodium cromoglycate) is used in the management of horses with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Its exact mechanism of action is unknown. Previously, it was believed to inhibit mast cell release of histamine, leukotrienes, and other substances that cause hypersensitivity reactions, probably by interfering with calcium transport across the mast cell membrane. This has been refuted because some β_2 -sympathomimetics are more potent mast cell stabilizers, yet do not display the properties of cromolyn. It is now thought that cromolyn acts as an inhibitor of platelet-activating factor, which is involved in the early and late phases of the pulmonary inflammatory response. To be effective, it must be administered before the horse is exposed to the offending allergen(s). Cromolyn has no intrinsic bronchodilator, antihistaminic, or anti-inflammatory action. Cromolyn is available as a nasal solution for nebulization and as a metered dose inhaler that is administered into the airways of horses via a special mask. It is administered at a dose of 80 mg, s.i.d. for 1-4 days, which will provide a therapeutic effect for several days to weeks.

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