

**TORBUGESIC- butorphanol tartrate solution**  
**Zoetis Inc.**

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**Torbugesic®**  
**(butorphanol tartrate injection)**

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(butorphanol tartrate injection)

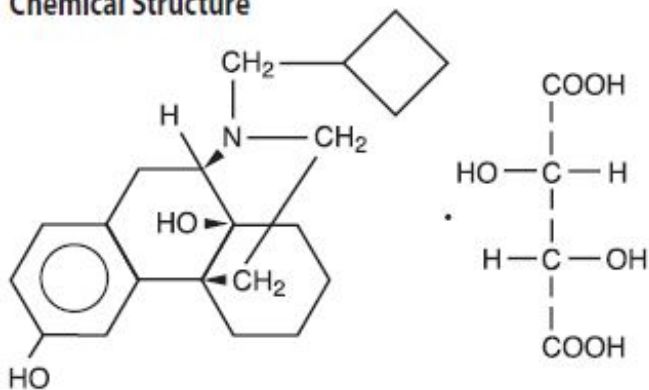
**CAUTION**

Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**DESCRIPTION**

TORBUGESIC (butorphanol tartrate injection) is a totally synthetic, centrally acting, narcotic agonist-antagonist analgesic with potent antitussive activity. It is a member of the phenanthrene series. The chemical name is Morphinan-3, 14-diol, 17-(cyclobutylmethyl)-, (-)-, (S- (R\*, R\*)))-2,3-dihydroxybutanedioate (1:1) (salt). It is a white, crystalline, water soluble substance having a molecular weight of 477.55; its molecular formula is C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>29</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>•C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>6</sub>.

**Chemical Structure**



**Chemical Structure**

Each mL of TORBUGESIC contains 10 mg butorphanol base (as butorphanol tartrate), 3.3 mg citric acid, USP, 6.4 mg sodium citrate, 4.7 mg sodium chloride, and 0.1 mg benzethonium chloride, q.s. with water for injection.

**CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

**Comparative Pharmacology**

In animals, butorphanol has been demonstrated to be 4 to 30 times more potent than morphine and pentazocine (Talwin®-V) respectively.<sup>1</sup>

In humans, butorphanol has been shown to have 5 to 7 times the analgesic activity of morphine and 20 times that of pentazocine.<sup>2,3</sup>

Butorphanol has 15 to 20 times the oral antitussive activity of codeine or dextromethorphan in dogs and guinea pigs.<sup>4</sup>

As an antagonist, butorphanol is approximately equivalent to nalorphine and 30 times more potent than pentazocine.<sup>1</sup>

Cardiopulmonary depressant effects are minimal after treatment with butorphanol as demonstrated in dogs<sup>5</sup>, humans<sup>6,7</sup> and horses.<sup>8</sup>

Unlike classical narcotic agonist analgesics which are associated with decreases in blood pressure, reduction in heart rate and concomitant release of histamine, butorphanol does not cause histamine release.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, the cardiopulmonary effects of butorphanol are not distinctly dosage-related but rather reach a ceiling effect beyond which further dosage increases result in relatively lesser effects.

Reproduction: Studies performed in mice and rabbits revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to butorphanol tartrate. In the female rat, parenteral administration was associated with increased nervousness and decreased care for the newborn, resulting in a decreased survival rate of the newborn. This nervousness was seen only in the rat species.

### **Equine Pharmacology**

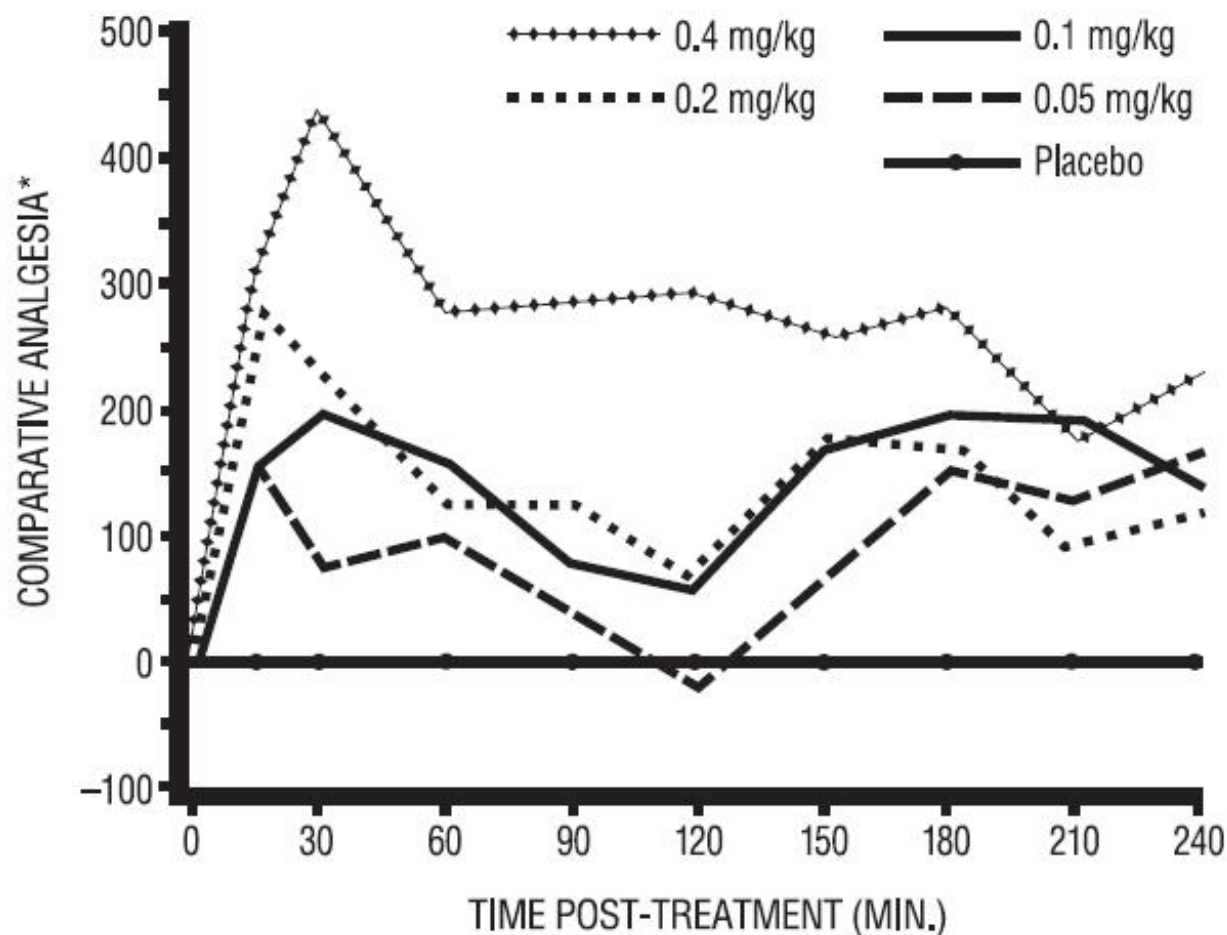
Following intravenous injection in horses, butorphanol is largely eliminated from the blood within 3 to 4 hours. The drug is extensively metabolized in the liver and excreted in the urine. In ponies, butorphanol given intramuscularly at a dosage of 0.22 mg/kg, was shown to alleviate experimentally induced visceral pain for about 4 hours.<sup>9</sup>

In horses, intravenous dosages of butorphanol ranging from 0.05 to 0.4 mg/kg were shown to be effective in alleviating visceral and superficial pain for at least 4 hours, as illustrated in the following figure:

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#### **Analgesic Effects of Butorphanol Given at Various Dosages in Horses with Abdominal Pain**

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\*Pain threshold in butorphanol-treated colicky horses relative to placebo controls.

A definite dosage-response relationship was detected in that butorphanol dosage of 0.1 mg/kg was more effective than 0.05 mg/kg but not different from 0.2 mg/kg in alleviating deep abdominal pain.

### Acute Equine Studies

Rapid intravenous administration of butorphanol at a dosage of 2 mg/kg (20 times the recommended dosage) to a previously unmedicated horse resulted in a brief episode of inability to stand, muscle fasciculation, a convulsive seizure of 6 seconds duration and recovery within three minutes. The same dosage administered after 10 successive daily 1 mg/kg dosages of butorphanol resulted only in transient sedative effects. During the 10-day course of administration at 1 mg/kg (10 times the recommended use level) in two horses, the only detectable drug effects were transient behavioral changes typical of narcotic agonist activity. These included muscle fasciculation about the head and neck, dysphoria, lateral nystagmus, ataxia and salivation.

Repeated administration of butorphanol at 1 mg/kg (10 times the recommended dose) every four hours for 48 hours caused constipation in one of two horses.

### Subacute Equine Studies

Horses were found to tolerate butorphanol given intravenously at dosages of 0.1, 0.3 and 0.5 mg/kg every 4 hours for 48 hours followed by once daily injections for a total of 21 days. The only detectable drug effects were slight transient ataxia observed occasionally in the high dosage group. No clinical, laboratory, or gross or histopathologic evidence of any butorphanol-related toxicity was encountered in the horses.

## INDICATIONS

TORBUGESIC (butorphanol tartrate injection) is indicated for the relief of pain associated with colic in adult horses and yearlings. Clinical studies in the horse have shown that TORBUGESIC alleviates abdominal pain associated with torsion, impaction, intussusception, spasmodic and tympanic colic and postpartum pain.

## **WARNINGS**

DO NOT USE IN HORSES INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. NOT FOR HUMAN USE.

## **CAUTION**

TORBUGESIC, a potent analgesic, should be used with caution with other sedative or analgesic drugs as these are likely to produce additive effects. There are no well-controlled studies using butorphanol in breeding horses, weanlings and foals. Therefore, the drug should not be used in these groups.

## **ADVERSE REACTIONS**

In clinical trials in horses, the most commonly observed side effect was slight ataxia which lasted 3 to 10 minutes.

Marked ataxia was reported in 1.5% of the 327 horses treated. Mild sedation was reported in 9% of the horses.

## **DOSAGE**

The recommended dosage in the horse is 0.1 mg of butorphanol per kilogram of body weight (0.05 mg/lb) by intravenous injection. This is equivalent to 5 mL of TORBUGESIC for each 1000 lbs body weight.

The dose may be repeated within 3 to 4 hours but treatment should not exceed 48 hours.

Use contents within 4 months of first puncture. Pre-clinical model studies and clinical field trials in horses demonstrate that the analgesic effects of TORBUGESIC are seen within 15 minutes following injection and persist for about 4 hours.

## **HOW SUPPLIED**

50 mL vials TORBUGESIC (butorphanol tartrate injection) Veterinary Injection, 10 mg base activity per mL.

10 mL vials TORBUGESIC (butorphanol tartrate injection) Veterinary Injection, 10 mg base activity per mL.

Store at controlled room temperature 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) with excursions between 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).

## **REFERENCES**

1. Pircio, A.W. *et al*: "The Pharmacology of Butorphanol," *Arch. Int. Pharmacodyn. Ther.* 220 (2): 231–257, 1976.
2. Dobkin, A.B. *et al*: "Butorphanol and Pentazocine in Patients with Severe Postoperative Pain," *Clin. Pharmacol. Ther.* 18: 547–553, 1975.
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
Approved by FDA under NADA # 135-780

zoetis

Manufactured by:  
Zoetis Manufacturing and Research Spain, S.L.  
Girona, Spain  
Distributed by:  
Zoetis Inc.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Revised: May 2019


## PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL - 10 mL Label

<b>FOR USE IN HORSES ONLY</b> <b>DO NOT USE IN HORSES INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION</b> Each mL of solution contains: Butorphanol base as butorphanol tartrate .....10 mg Citric acid ..... 3.3 mg Sodium citrate ..... 6.4 mg Sodium chloride ..... 4.7 mg Benzethonium chloride ..... 0.1 mg Water for injection ..... q.s.  <b>READ PACKAGE INSERT</b>   Manufactured by: Zoetis Manufacturing and Research Spain, S.L. Girona, Spain	<b>DOSAGE:</b> By intravenous injection, 0.1 mg/kg body weight (0.05 mg/lb). This is equivalent to 5 mL for each 1000 lbs of body weight. Dose may be repeated within 3 to 4 hours. Treatment should not exceed 48 hours. Use contents within 4 months of first puncture. Store at controlled room temperature 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) with excursions between 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).	<b>Torbugesic® <sup>IV</sup></b> <b>(butorphanol tartrate injection)</b> contains <b>10 mg</b> butorphanol base per mL as butorphanol tartrate <b>CAUTION:</b> Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. Approved by FDA under NADA # 135-780 <b>10 mL</b> 
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## PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL - 50 mL Label

**FOR USE IN HORSES ONLY**  
**DO NOT USE IN HORSES INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**


Each mL of solution contains:  
Butorphanol base as  
butorphanol tartrate..... 10 mg  
Citric acid..... 3.3 mg  
Sodium citrate..... 6.4 mg  
Sodium chloride..... 4.7 mg  
Benzethonium chloride..... 0.1 mg  
Water for injection..... q.s.

**READ PACKAGE INSERT**

**DOSAGE:** By intravenous injection, 0.1 mg/kg body weight (0.05 mg/lb). This is equivalent to 5 mL for each 1000 lbs of body weight. Dose may be repeated within 3 to 4 hours. Treatment should not exceed 48 hours. Use contents within 4 months of first puncture. Store at controlled room temperature 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) with excursions between 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).

Manufactured by:  
Zoetis Manufacturing and Research Spain, S.L.  
Girona, Spain  
Distributed by:  
Zoetis Inc.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
Product of Czech Republic

**Torbugesic®**  
**(butorphanol tartrate Injection)**  
contains **10 mg** butorphanol base per mL as butorphanol tartrate  
**CAUTION:** Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.  
Approved by FDA under NADA # 135-780

**50 mL**  


TORBUGESIC

butorphanol tartrate solution

Product Information				
Product Type	PRESCRIPTION ANIMAL DRUG	Item Code (Source)	NDC:54771-2033	
Route of Administration	INTRAVENOUS	DEA Schedule	CIV	
Active Ingredient/Active Moiety				
Ingredient Name		Basis of Strength	Strength	
BUTORPHANOL TARTRATE (UNII: 2L7I72RUHN) (BUTORPHANOL - UNII:QV897JC36D)		BUTORPHANOL TARTRATE	10 mg in 1 mL	
Inactive Ingredients				
Ingredient Name			Strength	
CITRIC ACID MONOHYDRATE (UNII: 2968PHW8QP)			3.3 mg in 1 mL	
SODIUM CITRATE (UNII: 1Q73Q2JULR)				
SODIUM CHLORIDE (UNII: 451W47IQ8X)				
BENZETHONIUM CHLORIDE (UNII: PH41D05744)				
Packaging				
#	Item Code	Package Description	Marketing Start Date	Marketing End Date
1	NDC:54771-2033-2	1 in 1 CARTON		
1		50 mL in 1 VIAL		
2	NDC:54771-2033-1	10 mL in 1 VIAL		
Marketing Information				
Marketing Category		Application Number or Monograph Citation	Marketing Start Date	Marketing End Date
NADA		NADA135780	06/11/1985	

