**Indications**

Failure of Passive Transfer, when there is Hypogamma globinaemia, and other conditions where it is desirable to increase the gamma globulin level in the blood of foals. Common sense veterinary medicine also indicates that gamma globulins would be a strongly indicated supportive therapy in a range of conditions, such as diarrhoea, colitis, renal conditions, and any active infections where there is destruction of gamma globulins.

**DOSAGE**

One litre of Equiplas® per 50kg body weight. If required, such as in cases where there is an ongoing depletion of gamma globulins, this dose may be repeated daily, while an attempt is made to treat the primary disease condition. Dosage should be based on systemic IgG levels of the recipient, verified by immunodiffusion or equivalent testing before and after administration, or upon experience resulting from past testing in similar circumstances.

**Administration**

In foals less than twelve hours old, where FPT is predicted, Equiplas® can be given orally. Once the foal is older than twelve hours, Equiplas® must be given intravenously.

Equiplas® must be administered through a blood giving set with a 200 micron filter in the drip chamber: One litre can be given over a period of 10 – 20 minutes. A second litre should only be given 1 – 2 hours later.

During administration, an attempt should be made to avoid volume overload. Complications of administration are very infrequent, but may include mild reactions such as trembling and tachypnoea. If these symptoms become severe or progress to sweating and excessive shaking, it is advisable to slow the rate of administration or to stop and restart in 10 – 15 minutes. If symptoms recur or persist, discontinue administration and contact Plasvacc.

**Thawing**

Thaw Equiplas® using only water at 40 degrees C as plasma can be damaged by thawing in a microwave or excessively hot water.

Do not refreeze thawed Equiplas®. Thawed product must be used within 21 days, and kept refrigerated at 8 degrees C.

**Restraints**

Equiplas® contains no preservatives, is not pasteurized and is frozen immediately after collection.

Equiplas® is only for sale to, and can only be administered by, registered Veterinary Surgeons in Australia.

The transmission of viral diseases is possible with the administration of any blood product, as is the development of serum sickness, but these are rare occurrences in the equidae. Do not mix with any other product. Do not transfer it to another container.

**Storage**

Store below minus 5 degrees centigrade (freeze).
**EQUIPLAS OR PLASMA MADE ON THE STUD? – IS THERE A CHOICE?**

When comparison is drawn between Equiplas® and plasma produced on the stud (by the sedimentation method), the following points need to be made....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Equiplas®</th>
<th>Other plasma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the donor in good health at the time of collection?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the donor free of Equine Infectious Anaemia?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the donor free of any other viral illness?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the donor qualify as a Universal Plasma donor?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>UNKNOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the plasma tested and found free of any blood cells?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a guaranteed high concentration of Gamma Globulin?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is every bag of uniform GG concentration?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the plasma tested for sterility?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it protected by APVMA Registration?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REMEMBER**

It is several months before Plasvacc completes its extensive Quality Control programme on each and every serial of Equiplas®, and only then is it released for sale. Tranfusion with other plasma, with little or no Quality Control, may be worse than using no plasma at all. Some of the untoward sequelae of using fresh plasma are:

- transmission of disease
- not transfusing enough GG by using plasma with an unknown (low) GG concentration
- transfusion reactions/haemolysis/serum sickness/jaundice
- sensitization of the patient to the blood group of the donor horse

Any or all of which could possibly lead to litigation! Use only plasma available in Australia and New Zealand which is protected by registration with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA).

**PLEASE NOTE**

Frozen bags of plasma are very easy to break. Do not drop. Do not handle transfusion ports before thawing, as they may break off. Claims made on bags broken during transit can not be considered unless the (empty) fractured bags are returned to Plasvacc for inspection. Place bags in thawing water as soon as unwrapped. As “Equiplas®” will often be needed urgently, and freight to some practices will take as long as two days, we suggest that some frozen stock be retained by the veterinarian. Equiplas has a 3 year expiry period.

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**READ WHAT EQUINE PRACTITIONERS ARE SAYING ABOUT EQUIPLAS**

“Equiplas® removes the worry of having to use colostrum or plasma of dubious value in situations where the dam either has poor or no colostrum, or she has died”

Dr Reg Pascoe, Oakey Veterinary Hospital, Queensland

“It has been beneficial in colic surgery cases which are in the early stages of Endotoxaemia, either pre or post-operatively – Equiplas® has controlled this condition successfully. I intend to use Equiplas® on all colic surgery referrals showing signs of Toxaemia, before or after surgery”

Dr Phil Burgeuz, Eagle Farm, Brisbane

“I used Equiplas® on sick foals referred to me in the 1997 Season, and found it to be much easier and more convenient to use than plasma I collected myself, with no untoward side effects”

Dr Lionel Richards, Deagon, Brisbane