

Solensia[®]
by *zoetis*

FAQs

We're Glad You Asked!



EFFICACY

What is Solensia?

Solensia is a monoclonal antibody specifically targeting Nerve Growth Factor (NGF), a key player in osteoarthritis pain (OA). Solensia alleviates pain associated with OA in cats for 1 month and provides an excellent 1st line therapy choice with a proven safety profile.

What is NGF?

NGF is an important signaling molecule in the OA pain pathway. NGF becomes elevated during injury, inflammation and chronic pain and sensitizes nerves (peripheral sensitization), contributes to local inflammation (neurogenic inflammation) and leads to increased signaling to the central nervous system which can lead to central sensitization. Targeting NGF with Solensia has been shown to provide effective analgesia in cats with OA pain.

How are cats dosed with Solensia?

Solensia is given by monthly subcutaneous injection at the clinic at a dose of 1-2.8mg/kg bodyweight. Cats weighing 2.5-7 kg should receive a 1ml injection from 1 vial (containing 7mg of frunevetmab). Cats that weigh 7.1-14 kg will need to receive an injection of 2 mLs (combine the volume of 2 vials in one syringe). Vials should be kept refrigerated and are for single use (contains no preservative).

Which pets will benefit from Solensia?

Solensia is indicated for cats 1 year of age or older for the alleviation of osteoarthritis pain.

Solensia is suitable as a first line therapy for cats that are newly diagnosed with osteoarthritis as well as ones that were previously managed with NSAIDs or other therapies. Solensia should NOT be given to dogs or other species.

How effective is Solensia and how quickly does it work?

Solensia effectively alleviates OA pain for 1 month following administration. Response will vary; however, studies have shown decreased pain compared to placebo treated cats as early as day 6 in a laboratory model of acute inflammatory pain.¹ Additionally, 77% of cat owners reported sustained improvement in signs of pain when their cats were treated with Solensia over 3 months.²

SAFETY

How safe is Solensia?

Solensia does not have the same mode of action as NSAIDs and is eliminated via normal protein degradation pathways with minimal involvement of the liver or kidneys. In laboratory margin of safety studies, no adverse reactions were observed when Solensia was administered for 6 consecutive monthly doses at 5X the maximum recommended dose.

Clinical studies have demonstrated that Solensia is safe, with a low incidence of side effects. Except for minor skin-related adverse events (dermatitis, alopecia, pruritus), adverse events reported in field trials were not significantly different from placebo treated cats. Solensia is well tolerated even in cats with bloodwork consistent with IRIS stage 1 and 2 chronic renal disease.

There is no contra-indication on the Solensia label regarding its use in cats with IRIS stage 3 & 4, however, Zoetis does not have safety data available. The attending veterinarian should make their decision based on the benefit vs. risk analysis for an individual animal.

Can Solensia be used in pregnant, breeding or lactating cats?

No. Solensia is contraindicated in pregnant, breeding or lactating cats.

Can Solensia be used with NSAIDs?

The concomitant use of Solensia with NSAIDs has not been specifically studied in cats. However, there are no known interactions between Solensia and other medications.

Many human or canine drugs are used 'extra-label' to manage osteoarthritis pain in cats. Can Solensia be used alongside these medications?

Use of human drugs such as gabapentin or canine drugs such as Cartrophen in an extra-label manner is at the risk of the prescribing veterinarian, however, there are no known interactions between Solensia and other medications. During the Solensia EU and US pivotal safety and efficacy field trials, the study protocol did allow for enrollment of cats treated with injectable polysulfated GAGs (Adequan) or injectable pentosan polysulfate (Cartrophen) in addition to joint diets, nutraceuticals as well as vaccines, parasiticides and other common medications.

Can Solensia be administered at the same time as a vaccine?

Yes. If a vaccine(s) is to be administered at the same time as Solensia, the vaccine(s) should be administered at a different site.

What human safety warnings should I be aware of?

- Solensia should be kept out of reach of children and hands washed after use.
- Accidental self-injection should be avoided since hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylaxis, could potentially occur.
- Pregnant women, women trying to conceive, and breastfeeding women should take extreme care to avoid accidental self-injection or needle stick injuries.
- In case of accidental self-injection, seek medical advice immediately and show the package insert or the label to the physician.

Is there a recommended injection site for Solensia?

During field safety and efficacy trials for Solensia, subcutaneous injection site was selected based on usual practice at the clinic and included both dorso-scapular, tail and other locations. Solensia is a monoclonal antibody therapy consisting of proteins, similar to insulin and as such it is not expected to cause significant inflammation. As in any medical scenario, veterinarians should assess the benefit of pain management and selection of injection site location with the potential for local reactions.

Refs. 1)Company Data Study AUS001\14-004. 2)Gruen ME, et al. Frunevetmab, a felinized anti-nerve growth factor monoclonal antibody, for the treatment of pain from osteoarthritis in cats. J Vet Intern Med. 2021;1-11