

Drugs and Pregnancy - “Oh My”

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Let's start this article with three facts that need to be understood from the beginning.

1. There are no drugs approved for use in alpacas in Canada at this time.
2. Drugs that are used in alpacas have their dosages, frequency and safety extrapolated from other species.
3. All drugs, dosages, safety and use discussed in this article have come from my past experiences or from other veterinarians. This does not guarantee that there will be no adverse affects from them when used by the reader.

Last but not least, there will probably never be drugs approved for alpacas in the near or distant future due to the extreme costs required to have an animal included on a label. This problem also applies to sheep and goat drug usages. The following are drugs I have used and feel confident in recommending. Remember, if given a choice, it is best not to use drugs during pregnancy, especially during the first 60 days when the embryo is developing. This is the time when the fetus is forming and implanting into the uterus. It is common for there to be a high incidence of early embryonic loss or reabsorption of the fetus, and I do not want drugs to increase this risk. However, if the situation indicates a drug is needed, then it should be given to save the mother. You can always re-breed at a later date.

Antibiotics

Penicillin

- Eg. Depocillin
 - Procaine Pen G (300 mg/ml): 3-5ml/100lbs/day
 - Eg. Duplocillin LA
 - Long acting Procaine & Benzathine Pen G (150 mg/ml):
 - 3-5ml/100lbs/3days
- Both given IM (intramuscularly)

Oxytetracycline

- Eg. Liquamycin LA-200
 - Long acting oxytetracycline (200 mg/ml)
 - 4-5ml/100lbs/ every 4 days (Long acting forms can be used but may cause pain at the injection sites.)
 - Eg. Oxytet
 - Short acting oxytetracycline (100 mg/ml)
 - 4-5ml/100lbs/day
- Given IM or SQ (subcutaneous)
This drug may be effective if given every other day based on research at Oregon State University

Potentiated Sulfas

- Eg. PotenSulf
 - Trimethoprim and Sulfadoxine (240 mg/ml)
 - 3ml/100lbs/day
- Given IM or SQ

Cephalosporin

- Eg. Excenel
 - Ceftiofur HCl (50 mg/ml)
 - 2ml/100lbs/day
- Given IM

Others

- Eg. NuFlor
 - Florfenicol (300 mg/ml)
 - 6-7ml per adult every 3 days
- Given SQ
I have used this drug within the first 60 days of pregnancy with no adverse affects.

Drugs That Are Not Safe

Steroids

- Eg. Prednalone, Dexamethasone
- Any steroids injected or given orally have a very high risk causing abortion.
- Only to be used if need out weighs the risk.

Cloprostenol Sodium

- Eg. Estrumate
- Used to short cycle females or abort pregnancy.
- **NEVER EVER** give to a female unless she is proven open or not pregnant by ultrasound, rectal exam or progesterone testing.
- Being receptive, or not having been exposed to males, doesn't mean an animal is NOT pregnant.

Dewormers

Ivermectin

- Eg. Ivomec injectable (10 mg/ml)
 - 1ml/100lbs
- Given SQ
- Has been given monthly during pregnancy with no adverse effects
- Pour On 1ml/22lbs - not proven effective

Fenbendazole

- Eg. Safe Guard, Panacur (100 mg/gm)
 - 5ml/100lbs orally
- Safe at 2-3 times regular dose

Albendazole

- Eg. Valbazan paste (300 mg/ml)
 - 4ml/100lbs orally
- Not safe in early pregnancy
Used to kill liver flukes

Moxidectin

- Eg. Cydectin (5 mg/ml)
 - Pour On: 1ml/22lbs
 - Injectable: 1ml/100lbs
- Given SQ
There has been no study done on the efficacy of pour on cydectin in alpacas.

Pyrantal Pamoate

- Eg. Strongid T (50 mg/ml)
 - 6ml/100lbs for roundworms
 - 12ml/100lbs for tapeworms
- Safe oral drugs

Amprolium

- Eg. Amprol Liquid (96 mg/ml)
 - Given orally at 5ml/100lbs daily for 7-10 days
- Used to treat coccidia
Do not over dose as it can cause signs of polio

Vaccines

Multivalent Clostridial vaccines have been known to cause abortion during mid- pregnancy. Personally, I have not seen a problem in late pregnancy. The safest clostridial vaccine, if needed during mid- pregnancy, is a 2-way vaccine called VISION CD-T by Intervet.

Sedation

Xylazine

- Eg. Rompun (100 mg/ml)
- Used to sedate animals for procedures or prior to surgery.
- No indication of it causing abortions in alpacas, but there are no guarantees with any sedatives.
- Can be reversed with Yohimbine.

Acepromazine

- Eg. Atravet (10 mg/ml)
- Safe
- Used for sedation (rarely used)