



The guide to achieving the best outcome for your patient and your team when using Alfaxan® Multidose for the induction of anaesthesia in the dog and cat.

Premedication

- Dependent on the case ensure suitable premedicant drugs have been administered and an appropriate length of time has elapsed to allow the premedication to achieve peak effect.
- Alpha-2 agonists can reduce the dose of Alfaxan® Multidose and maintenance agents required by up to an average of 70%. Acepromazine can reduce dose requirements by up to 30%.
- Alpha-2 agonists may increase circulation time. Administer Alfaxan® Multidose more slowly than described below if these drugs have been used.

Recommended dose

DOGS		CATS	
Un-premedicated	Premedicated	Un-premedicated	Premedicated
3 mg/kg	2 mg/kg	5 mg/kg	5 mg/kg
0.3 ml/kg	0.2 ml/kg	0.5 ml/kg	0.5 ml/kg

An intravenous cannula is preferred for the administration of the product.

Induction

1. Calculate and prepare the full dose of Alfaxan® Multidose.
2. Within the syringe divide the dose into 4 equal parts.
3. Administer the first ¼ dose slowly.
4. Ensure the dose is flushed through with sterile saline (the cannula and bung can hold approx. 0.1-0.15ml of fluid). This is particularly important in small patients.
5. Wait 15-20 seconds. The patient will relax into a sedated state and be under control.
6. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
7. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat step 3, flush, and wait 15-20 seconds.
8. Assess depth of anaesthesia.
9. If not at stage III anaesthesia repeat steps 7 & 8 until stage III anaesthesia has been achieved, or the full dose administered.
10. It is unusual for intravenously administered Alfaxan® Multidose to have no immediate effect on the patient. If the animal is not demonstrating any degree of sedation following the full calculated dose of Alfaxan® Multidose the position & patency of the IV access should be assessed.
11. If stage III anaesthesia has not been achieved following one full calculated dose, the SPC states that up to one further full dose may be administered to effect.
12. Ideally intubate following induction and administer supplemental oxygen.
 - **Aim to administer Alfaxan® Multidose slowly and to effect.** Rapid administration may result in transient apnoea.
 - A compensatory increase in heart rate may be seen following Alfaxan® Multidose administration. This is a normal physiological response due to a maintained baroreceptor reflex and persists for 10-15 minutes in most patients.

Transition

Alfaxan provides sufficient duration of action to allow a smooth, unrushed, transition to volatile maintenance: 8-12 minutes in the dog and 20-25 minutes in the cat.

Maintenance

The majority of patients will be maintained on volatile agents carried in oxygen. However, if necessary, Alfaxan may be used in the dog and cat for maintenance of anaesthesia for up to 1 hour:

Total Intravenous Anaesthesia (TIVA) with Alfaxan

- Alfaxan is licenced for the maintenance of anaesthesia in the dog and cat for up to 1 hour, either by intermittent bolus or constant rate infusion.
- Induction should be performed as above.
- Ideally intubate and administer supplemental oxygen.
- An intravenous cannula is beneficial for all patients and is recommended for TIVA lasting more than 5 minutes (see SPC for further details).
- For bolus maintenance (most suitable for short procedures) small incremental doses may be administered as depth of anaesthesia begins to decline, or approximately every 10 minutes. Ensure each dose is flushed through with saline.
- For constant rate infusion a suitably calibrated syringe driver, or similar device, should be employed.
- The animal should be carefully monitored as respiratory depression may occur during Alfaxan TIVA. IPPV should be initiated if necessary to maintain oxygenation and normal PaCO₂.
- The duration of recovery may be longer following Alfaxan TIVA than with volatile maintenance.
- The intermittent bolus or CRI dose of Alfaxan may require reducing by up to 20%, and the intervals between intermittent bolus administration increasing by up to 20%, in animals with renal or hepatic compromise.

Suggested Alfaxan doses for maintenance of anaesthesia in dogs and cats (up to 1 hour).

	DOGS		CATS	
	Un-premedicated	Premedicated	Un-premedicated	Premedicated
Dose for constant rate infusion (CRI)				
mg/kg/hour	8 - 9	6 - 7	10 - 11	7 - 8
mg/kg/minute	0.13 - 0.15	0.10 - 0.12	0.16 - 0.18	0.11 - 0.13
ml/kg/minute	0.013 - 0.015	0.010 - 0.012	0.016 - 0.018	0.011 - 0.013
Bolus dose for each 10 minutes of maintenance				
mg/kg	1.3 - 1.5	1.0 - 1.2	1.6 - 1.8	1.1 - 1.3
ml/kg	0.13 - 0.15	0.10 - 0.12	0.16 - 0.18	0.11 - 0.13

Recovery

- Animals should be ideally extubated in the recovery area/kennels.
- Ensure regular monitoring during recovery.
- Minimise stimulation (manipulation, sound, light) to assist smooth recovery.
- Adequate levels of analgesia and a degree of sedation will help smooth recovery.

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