



# Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

July 2023



*Did you know .....*

**The IPCC can help provide management advice regarding parenteral veterinary vaccine exposure to a human.**

It is important to determine the following: 1. what vaccine is involved, how much (if any) vaccine was injected, and what body part was involved? 2. Is this a live or killed vaccine? 3. Is the vaccine formulated in an oil-based emulsion, or containing alum or aluminum hydroxide? These situations may require the patient have a prompt evaluation for possible vasospasm, compartment syndrome or granuloma formation. 4. Determine the tetanus status of the pt. If the needle was dirty, these patients may need wound care and possible antibiotics.

Call **1-800-222-1222** for treatment recommendations for exposure to veterinary vaccines.

## Veterinary Medications can Cause Human Health Hazards

Veterinarians have over 5,000 prescription and over the counter medications at their disposal. Unfortunately, several cause toxicities in humans. Severity ranges from mild to death. A few examples:

**Tilmicosin (Micotil®):** a macrolide antibiotic used in cows. It has cardiotoxic side effects. Fatalities can occur with injected amounts as low as 5 ml. Clinical signs of exposure include puncture wound, chest pain, anxiety, light-headedness, funny taste in mouth, rapid heart rate, nausea, and death. The drug is believed to exert calcium channel blockade effects, though this has not been completely elucidated. Due to this, calcium is usually recommended in severe cases in addition to other treatment options. Symptoms from an accidental injection of tilmicosin occur within 15 minutes. Dermal exposure without injection has not caused fatalities.

**Dinoprost (Lutalyse®):** a prostaglandin used to induce abortions and calving in cows. The FDA cautions veterinarians about misuse of drug to terminate a human pregnancy. The drug is readily absorbed through the skin. Exposure to the drug may result in miscarriage or sudden labor in pregnant women. It may also cause bronchospasm in asthmatics and has the potential to induce complete respiratory collapse in rare cases.

**Clenbuterol (Ventipulmin®):** It is used as a bronchodilator in horses. Humans use it for body building and weight loss. Adverse effects in humans include tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, pulmonary edema, and myocardial ischemia.

For management and treatment guidelines contact the IPCC at **1-800-222-1222**.

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