

Now available in the US! A novel formulation for horses with PPID

# Cabergoline Injection

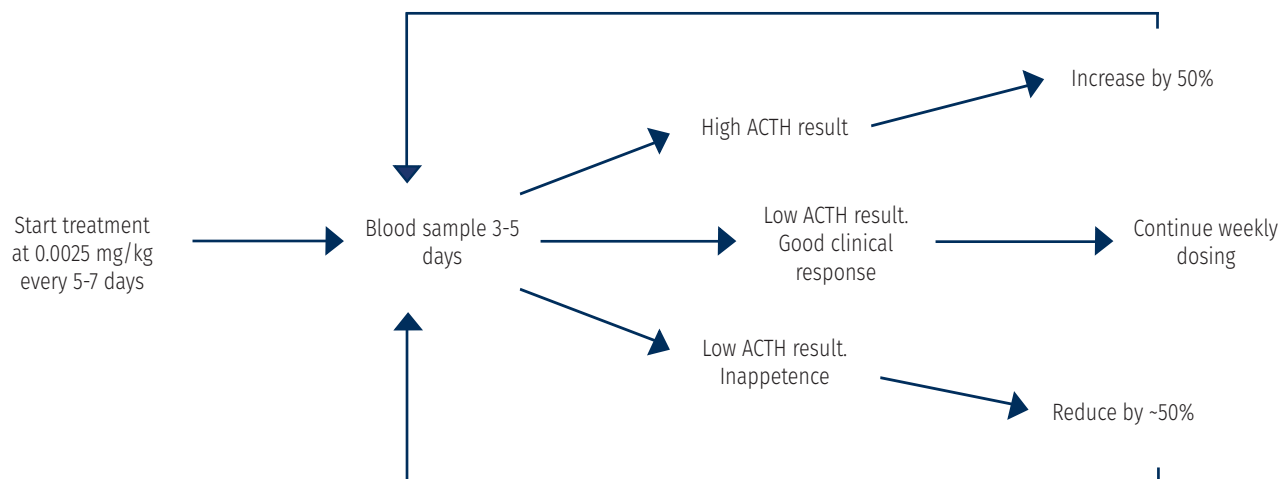
5 mg/mL, 5 mL vial  
(Dopamine agonist)

- ✓ Once-weekly injection (IM) of under 1 mL
- ✓ Ideal for owners who struggle with long-term medication routines
- ✓ Suitable for horses where pergolide is ineffective
- ✓ Improved horse owner compliance
- ✓ Studied in horses under clinical conditions<sup>1</sup>



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## Recommended Dosing



**Order by prescription today!** Online at [iFill.com](https://iFill.com) or call 888-508-5032

<sup>1</sup> Sundra T, Kelty E, Rossi G, Rendle D. Retrospective assessment of the use of extended-release cabergoline in the management of equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction. *Front Vet Sci.* 2024 Mar 6;11:1332337. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2024.1332337. PMID: 38511195; PMCID: PMC10951098.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is cabergoline and how does it work for PPID?

Cabergoline is a dopamine agonist that acts on the pituitary gland to suppress hormone overproduction associated with PPID. Like pergolide, it restores dopaminergic inhibition that is lost due to neurodegeneration between the hypothalamus and pituitary.

### How is cabergoline administered?

- Given as a small-volume injection (IM)
- Typically administered using a 23G or 21G, 1.5 inch needle

### How does cabergoline compare to pergolide?

Both drugs share the same mechanism of action (dopamine agonism). However:

- Cabergoline may be more potent based on human data and emerging equine evidence
- It is administered as an injection rather than a daily oral medication
- It offers a practical alternative when compliance with oral therapy is poor

There is currently no definitive large-scale equine study proving superiority, but clinical experience is growing.

### When should cabergoline be considered?

Injectable cabergoline may be appropriate:

- When owners struggle with daily dosing compliance
- When horses resist oral medications
- In cases with suboptimal response to pergolide
- As a first-line option when compliance concerns are anticipated

### Why is compliance such a major issue in PPID treatment?

Studies show that less than 50% of owners administer pergolide as prescribed, meaning many horses are undertreated.

Challenges include:

- Difficulty administering tablets
- Owner inconsistency
- Long-term daily dosing burden

Cabergoline's weekly dosing directly addresses this issue.

### What is the typical dosing frequency for cabergoline?

- Common starting protocol: once weekly injection
- Some horses may require adjustment to every 4–7 days depending on response
- Duration of effect varies between individuals

### What are the most common side effects?

Side effects are similar to those seen with pergolide.

The most common adverse effect is inappetence:

- Occurs in ~20–30% of horses depending on dose
- Typically transient (often <24 hours)
- May be accompanied by mild lethargy

Lower starting doses and a gradual escalation in dose to effect can reduce incidence.

### What is the volume of the injection and are site reactions a concern?

- The injection volume is very small and the formulation itself is very inert

### Should cabergoline and pergolide be used together?

No. Both drugs act via the same mechanism. Combination therapy is not recommended.

### Can cabergoline be used in horses with concurrent EMS?

Yes. This is commonly indicated but care is required: PPID and EMS frequently coexist

- If using other medications (e.g., SGLT2 inhibitors), introduce therapies sequentially to monitor appetite and tolerance. Beware introducing cabergoline (or pergolide) in horses that are on SGLT2 inhibitors for fear of reducing appetite and increasing the risk of hyperlipemia.
- Preventing laminitis remains the primary goal

### What is the primary advantage of cabergoline over oral therapy?

The key benefit is improved real-world treatment success through improved compliance:

- Weekly dosing vs. daily administration
- Avoids challenges with oral delivery
- Reduces risk of inconsistent treatment