

Epityl®

60mg Phenobarbital



Taking control of Epilepsy



SNAP TABLET

Allows for accurate dosing



EASY TO ADMINISTER

Grilled meat flavour



CONVENIENT

Available in 100 and 500 tablet packs

Epityl, containing 60mg phenobarbital, is a first line treatment for canine epilepsy that can be easily halved using its snap tablet technology into 30mg or quartered into 15mg allowing for accurate dosing. Epityl is available in 100 tablets or pots of 500 that allow for convenient dispensing options.


chanelle
PHARMA



Phenobarbital has a long history of use for seizure control in veterinary medicine, and is reported to **decrease the seizure frequency in approximately 60-93% of dogs with idiopathic epilepsy** when plasma concentrations are maintained at therapeutic levels (25-35mg/L).

Two recent review papers have explored the efficacy of phenobarbital as a first-line anti-epileptic drug (AED) in dogs. Both reviews found it to have good efficacy in the control of seizures, and suggested it is a **good choice for the management of canine epilepsy as a monotherapy**.^{4,5}



Canine Epilepsy:

Epilepsy is a common neurological condition in dogs, characterised by recurrent seizures, and is estimated to affect over 55,000 dogs in the UK.^{1,2}

There can be different underlying causes of epilepsy and the condition can be distressing for both the animal and the owner.

There are **different types of epilepsy**, depending on the underlying cause:

- **Primary or idiopathic epilepsy** - no underlying cause can be found. This type of epilepsy includes

genetic cases. It is most likely diagnosed in dogs less than six years of age.³

- **Structural epilepsy** - abnormalities within the brain are found, usually by MRI and/or cerebrospinal fluid analysis. These can include vascular, inflammatory, infectious or traumatic lesions, developmental or degenerative changes and neoplasia. It is more likely to be diagnosed in dogs over the age of six years old.³
- **Reactive seizures** are caused by metabolic diseases or exposure to a toxin, once the underlying cause has been treated the seizures will stop.

When to start Medication

Canines diagnosed with epilepsy are treated by administration of anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs).

There is no treatment for idiopathic epilepsy but seizures can be controlled using AEDs reducing the frequency and severity of seizures.

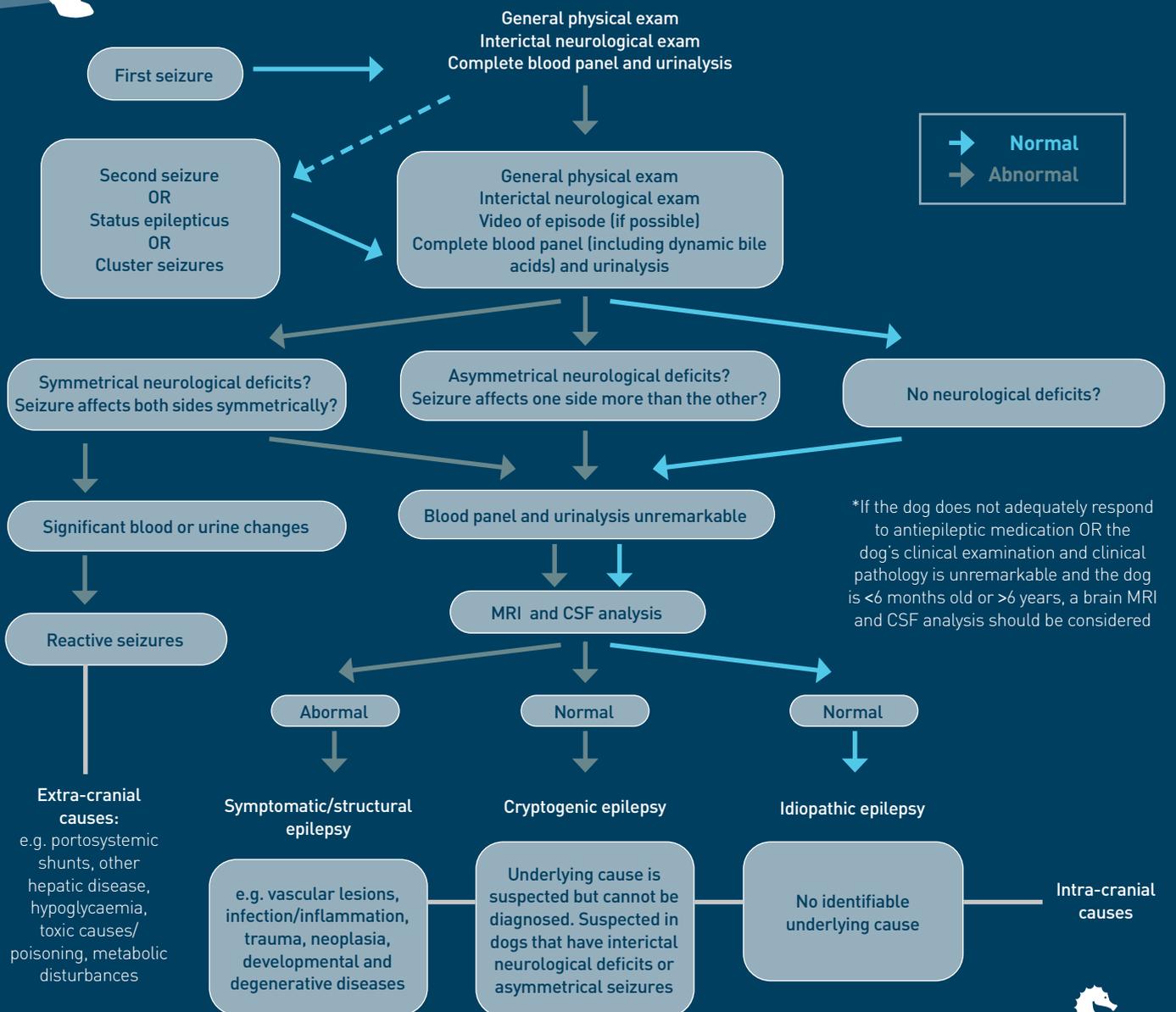


2015 ACVIM Small Animal Consensus Statement on Seizure:

Management in Dogs:

The panel recommendations to initiate AED treatment are summarized as follows:

(i) Identifiable structural lesion present or prior history of brain disease or injury;	(ii) Acute repetitive seizures or, status epilepticus (ictal event ≥ 5 minutes or ≥ 3 or more generalized seizures within a 24-hour period);	(iii) ≥ 2 or more seizure events within a 6-month period;	(iv) Prolonged, severe, or unusual postictal periods.
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Safety and Monitoring:



A recent review of AED safety found that overall there was a strong level of evidence provided for the phenobarbital safety profile, with 43 studies and a combined sample size of 1003 dogs presenting data about the safety profile of phenobarbital as a mono therapy.⁶

Side effects are often related to the serum concentrations of phenobarbital so monitoring is recommended to ensure target therapeutic levels are reached, without inducing toxic effects.

Serum concentrations should be checked:⁷

- **Seven to 14 days** after starting therapy or changing the dose
- **Every three to six months** as a matter of routine
- **If seizures are poorly controlled or if side effects increase**

Increased serum ALP is a common finding with phenobarbital treatment^{6,7}, but is not necessarily a sign of liver dysfunction⁷.

Therefore it is recommended to measure pre- and postprandial bile acids every six to 12 months, or more frequently if hepatic dysfunction is suspected.⁷

Liver damage associated with phenobarbital is usually serum level-related and is uncommon in dogs where the phenobarbital serum level is maintained below 35µg/ml.⁸

References:

1. PFMA Pet population 2018 - <https://www.pfma.org.uk/pet-population-2018>
2. Kearsley-Fleet L, O'Neill DG, Volk HA, Church DB, Brodbelt DC: Prevalence and risk factors for canine epilepsy of unknown origin in the UK. *Vet Rec* 2013, 172(13):338.
3. Volk H, Clinical Forum: how to manage canine epilepsy successfully?, *Companion Animal* July 2015, Volume 20 No 7
4. Podell M, Volk HA, Berendt M, et al. 2015 ACVIM Small Animal Consensus Statement on Seizure Management in Dogs. *J Vet Intern Med* 2016;30:477-490.
5. Charalambous M, et al., Treatment in canine epilepsy – a systematic review. *BMC Veterinary Research* 2014, 10:257
6. Charalambous M, et al., Antiepileptic drugs' tolerability and safety – a systematic review and meta-analysis of adverse effects in dogs. *BMC Veterinary Research* (2016) 12:79
7. Chandler K, Treatment and monitoring of epilepsy in dogs. *In Practice* March 2011, Volume 33, 98–104
8. Stabile F, et al., Treating idiopathic epilepsy in cats and dogs – part one, *Vet Times* 2011

Epityl 60 mg tablets of dogs. Each tablet contains 60 mg of Phenobarbital. Refer to product packaging and leaflets for full indications, side effects, precautions, warnings, contra-indications and meat withdrawal. For more detailed information, read the SPC. POM-V To be supplied only on veterinary prescription. MA Holder: Channele Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Ltd. Contact: tel: +353 (0)91 841788. Address: Channele, Dublin Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway. Use medicines responsibly. Visit www.noah.co.uk/responsible

