



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Eric Holcomb, Governor

www.in.gov/hrc

IHRC Advisory Notice to Horsemen and IHRC Licensed Veterinarians

February 22, 2022

Please be aware of recent advisory released by the RMTC regarding the use of bupivacaine (long-acting local anesthetic). Horsemen are advised against the use of this product, as there is no withdrawal guidance for its use in proximity to a race. For questions, please contact Dr. Kerry Peterson, IHRC Equine Medical Director. Kepeterson@hrc.in.gov 317-233-3119.



401 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE 222 · LEXINGTON, KY 40507 · PHONE: 859-759-4081 · WWW.RMTCNET.COM

Bupivacaine Advisory

January 26, 2022

Bupivacaine is a long-acting local anesthetic. It has FDA approval in a liposomal formulation for the control of post-operative pain in dogs and cats as Nocita™ (Elanco US). Bupivacaine is assigned 2/A in the ARCI's [Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances](#). It is not associated with a regulatory threshold and there is no withdrawal guidance for its use in proximity to a race.

Horsemen are advised against the use of this product in racehorses for the following reasons:

- The [Schedule of Controlled Therapeutic Substances](#) contains local anesthetics, [lidocaine](#) and [mepivacaine](#), and provides withdrawal guidance should their use be required for wound repair in relative proximity to a race.
- The use of bupivacaine is not indicated for diagnostic regional anesthesia or nerve blocks.
- A recent administration study (manuscript in preparation) determined bupivacaine has an extended detection time when compared to other local anesthetics (e.g. lidocaine and mepivacaine).
- Should a longer period of local anesthesia be required in a horse, it is reasonable to accept that horse should not be under consideration for racing or training.
- To the extent a racehorse was administered bupivacaine, clearance testing is advisable before racing or training.