Hydroxyzine - Equine
(Atarax, Vistaril)

**Common Drug Name**
Hydroxyzine

**Common Brand Names**
Atarax, Vistaril (human forms)

Generic products are available.

**Storage**
Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container. Avoid freezing liquid products.

**Uses**
Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used for the treatment of allergies, hives, or other skin conditions causing itching.

**Dose and Administration**
Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Duration of treatment depends on the reason for and response to treatment.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the horse for whom it was prescribed.

**Possible Side Effects**
May see sedation. This is usually mild and resolves with time. Consult your veterinarian if you notice excessive sedation.

If your horse experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

**Precautions**
Not for use in horses hypersensitive (allergic) to hydroxyzine.

Use with caution in horses with glaucoma, severe heart disease, or obstruction of the urinary bladder (problems urinating), or obstruction of the pylorus (junction between the stomach and intestine).

Do not use in pregnant or lactating horses unless benefits outweigh the risks.

Use with caution in working horses, as hydroxyzine does cause sedation.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with hydroxyzine.

**Drug, Food, and Test Interactions**
Notify your veterinarian of any other medications, including vitamins and supplements, your horse is taking while receiving hydroxyzine.

Consult your veterinarian before using hydroxyzine with other central nervous system (CNS) depressant drugs such as barbiturates or antidepressants, since the sedative effects could worsen.

Interactions with epinephrine and anticholinergic drugs, such as atropine, may occur.

Discontinue use at least 7 days prior to skin allergy testing.

**Withdrawal Times**
Hydroxyzine is a classified drug. Consult your veterinarian and event officials before using hydroxyzine or any other medication in a performance horse. Not for use in horses intended for food.

**Signs of Toxicity/Overdose**
May see excessive sedation. If you know or suspect your horse has received an overdose, or if you observe any excessive sedation, contact your veterinarian immediately.

*Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and animals.*