GUDAIR® VACCINE

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Gudair®?
Gudair® is a vaccine used to help protect sheep and goats from the effects of Ovine Johne’s disease (OJD).

Can Gudair® vaccine cause OJD infection?
No. Gudair® is a killed vaccine – it cannot give OJD infection to the animal.

How does Gudair® vaccine work?
Gudair® works by stimulating the immune system of an animal. It has been shown to be most effective when administered before animals come into contact with the bacterium that causes OJD.

Why should I vaccinate with Gudair®?
OJD infection in sheep and goat flocks can result in significant production and trading losses. This vaccine provides an important management tool to assist in the control of the disease.

Vaccinating with Gudair® is one of the most effective ways of protecting your flock from Ovine Johne’s disease. It creates immunity in the sheep and goats that helps protect them from OJD infection.

Vaccinating helps protect your flock, and your neighbour’s flock so if you all vaccinate together, you can protect your entire district from OJD and limit its spread.

At what age should I vaccinate with Gudair®?
All sheep that are likely to live beyond 2 years of age should be vaccinated against OJD.

Lambs should be vaccinated prior to 16 weeks of age to get the best protection (they are then classed as Approved Vaccinates).

If Gudair® doesn’t protect all my sheep and goats, does that mean the vaccine is no good?
No vaccine is 100% effective. However when used as part of your OJD management plan, Gudair® vaccination remains one of the best ways of reducing OJD infection and losses.

What is the dose of Gudair® and how often should I vaccinate?
A single 1 mL dose of Gudair® is administered, most commonly at lamb marking. Booster doses are not required.

What do I use to inject with Gudair®?
It is recommended to use the Pfizer Secure® 1mL vaccinator when administering Gudair®. This vaccinator is designed to assist in operator safety when administering Gudair®.
Where do I inject Gudair vaccine®?

Gudair® vaccine must be administered subcutaneously, high on the neck behind the ear to reduce the incidence of injection-site reactions that are common with Gudair®. They will ensure any reactions are not near valuable meat cuts.

It is very important that animals are restrained adequately during vaccination. Young lambs should be vaccinated while restrained in a lamb marking cradle. Weaners, hoggets and adult sheep that are to be vaccinated in a race should be packed tight and have their heads held high to ensure the vaccine can be injected at the correct site.

Vaccinated sheep must be identified with a NLIS (Sheep) tag that contains the Property Identification Code and the letter ‘V’ in a circle.

How effective is Gudair®?
Vaccination of lambs against OJD can reduce deaths by up to 90%.

Vaccination can also decrease the amount of OJD bacteria passed in dung by up to 90%. This should reduce pasture contamination and provide less opportunity for disease transmission.

Vaccination is not 100% protective against OJD. More than 10% of vaccinated sheep may develop ‘sub-clinical’ infection and occasionally some will develop severe ‘clinical’ disease and die from OJD.

Do I need to continue to vaccinate with Gudair®?
The points to consider are:
- the effectiveness of the vaccine in the field
- the level of disease remaining after 5 years of vaccination
- the ability of the disease to become re-established in a flock
- the ‘marketability’ of Gudair® vaccinated sheep

How much longer will I need to vaccinate with Gudair®?
Control of OJD will vary depending on the amount of disease, stocking rates and management of each property.

Do I need to vaccinate my wethers for OJD?
If you are 100% sure these wethers will go to the meat trade by 18 months of age, then no. Otherwise, if these wethers remain on the property for an extended period of time they could commence shedding and perpetuate the disease on your property.
What are the common reactions to Gudair® vaccine?

**Nodules**
Most sheep will have a palpable nodule within 7 to 15 days after vaccination. A small number of these may enlarge to a size of greater than 5cm, then generally decrease in size over several months. In some cases, nodules may persist. Enlargement of the local lymph nodes (at the front of the shoulder, and/or near the throat) may occasionally be observed.

**Abscesses**
A small proportion of these Gudair® swellings (up to 5%) may develop into an abscess and rupture. If this happens, it is particularly important to consider using a fly strike preventative treatment to minimise risk of fly strike. These sheep should be regularly checked after vaccination for fly strike and treated as necessary.

**Existing OJD infection**
If OJD is already present within the flock, case reports suggest that larger nodules and greater involvement of lymph nodes can occur after vaccination. This is due to the sheep’s immune system having a more intense secondary immune reaction to the vaccine. (Producers with active infection on their farms have reported that injection site lesions were larger and persisted longer in older sheep1).

How will the reactions from the vaccine Gudair® affect sheep?
The two main concerns raised by producers have been the risk of fly strike as a result of abscess formation and rupture, and loss of carcass value due to increased abattoir trimming.

**Risk of fly strike**
In some instances after vaccination with Gudair®, abscesses have resulted and outbreaks of flystrike have been reported when the weather has been warm and humid and therefore providing favourable conditions for flies. Jetting the entire mob was successful in preventing further flystrike1. Appropriate fly strike prevention is recommended.

**Carcass trimming**
Meat processors have reported processing carcasses with lesions up to 25cm away from the injection site. Despite this, they were able to remove these with their normal trimming procedure with little or no cost to the producer, provided the correct injection site was used1,2.

Animal Reactions to Gudair® vaccine
If you are concerned about reactions in your sheep, please contact Pfizer Animal Health Technical Services on 1800 814 883.

Can I vaccinate animals destined for live export with Gudair®?
Do not vaccinate sheep or goats with Gudair® vaccine if they are to be exported live. Sheep and goats exported from Australia are sometimes tested for Johne’s disease by serology (blood testing), and prior Gudair® vaccination will give a positive result for Johne’s disease. You should check the requirements of the importing country before vaccinating sheep and goats with Gudair® destined for export.

How should I store the Gudair® vaccine?
The vaccine should be stored in a refrigerator and not exposed to direct sunlight. In the field it is important to keep the vaccine in an esky (with ice, but not touching – do not freeze!) when it is not being used. Gudair® can be used for up to 30 days after opening, provided storage instructions are followed.

Where do I purchase Gudair®?
Gudair® vaccine is available through SheepMAP approved veterinary practitioners and Rural merchandise stores, as well as some LHPA and DPI offices. Contact PAH for a list of accredited distributors.
Do I have to identify my Gudair® vaccinated sheep and goats?

YES. You have to identify your Gudair® vaccinated sheep at the time of vaccination with an ear tag which has your Property Identification Code (PIC) and a ‘V’ within a circle (V Tag). This ear tag must be consistent with NLIS Sheep. Where the age of breeding is uncertain, a pink post breeder tag should be used. The owner is responsible for ensuring that this tagging is done correctly.

Goats should also be identified at the time of vaccination with an ear tag which has your PIC and a ‘V’ in a circle. The ear tag must be consistent with NLIS.

Even if goats are exempt from NLIS it is recommended that the V ear tag be applied unless there is a particular reason not to do so, e.g. they are show goats. If no ear tag is applied, you should keep a written record of the date of vaccination and identity details of all vaccinated goats (e.g. tattoo).

For further information, contact your local DPI or LHPA office.

How do I tag sheep and goats that already have a tag when I vaccinate with Gudair®?

Where sheep or goats have already been NLIS tagged and are subsequently vaccinated, a second pink post breeder V tag must be used after vaccination with Gudair®.

Can anyone vaccinate their sheep or goats with Gudair®?

Any operator can vaccinate sheep or goats with Gudair® vaccine so long as the producer is aware of the safety measures required when using Gudair®.

Do I have to keep any records of vaccination?

The person who supplies the Gudair® vaccine to you has to keep a record of your name and address, your PIC, the date and the number of doses. The supplier has to keep that record for five years and supply this information to Pfizer Animal Health Australia. Pfizer must make this information available to the state DPIs as required.

It is recommended that all animal owners record the vaccine batch number, expiry dates, vaccination dates and animal numbers for their records.

In the case of goats that have not been tagged due to NLIS exemptions, it is recommended that you keep a written record of the goats you have vaccinated (including permanent identification details) and when.

What precautions can farmers take to reduce the risk of their animals developing excessive reactions to Gudair® vaccine?

- Always use the recommended injection site for Gudair®, high on the neck, and 3-5cm behind the ear.
- It is recommended to use the Pfizer Secure® 1mL vaccinator.
- Sheep should be well restrained. Lambs can be vaccinated when restrained in a marking cradle, and adult sheep should be tightly packed in a race.
- Ensure that the Gudair® vaccine is delivered under the skin using 6-12 mm needles. Any Gudair® vaccine injected into the skin or muscle will result in a larger reaction.
- It is advised to do one operation at a time, and have regular rest breaks to avoid self-injecting.
- If other vaccinations are given, ensure Gudair® is given on the opposite side of the neck to the other vaccination sites.
- Ensure equipment is clean. Regularly change needles.
- Check the flock regularly after vaccination to monitor for abscesses leading to potential fly strike. Use fly preventative treatments if at risk.
- Read and follow the safety instructions on the leaflet to minimise the risk of accidental human self-injection.
What if I accidentally inject myself with Gudair®?

- See your GP immediately, take the Gudair® carton and leaflet with you.
- Contact the Pfizer Animal Health Technical Services on 1800 814 883.

What if I get a needle scratch or skin exposure to Gudair®, or contact with the eyes or mouth?

- Immediately follow the first aid advice outlined on the Farmer First Aid Advice leaflet.
- If you believe you are having a reaction, see your GP immediately.
- Any further questions please refer them to Pfizer Animal Health Technical Services on 1800 814 883.

Additional Information

- Use of Gudair® vaccine may be restricted in your State or Territory. Contact your local Department of Agriculture (or similar) for details.
- Storage: Store at 2°C to 8°C (refrigerate. Do not freeze). Protect from light.
- New Label Claim: Can be used for 30 days after opening! (see instructions)
- Withholding Periods: Nil
- Schedule: Nil

If in doubt, contact Pfizer Animal Health Technical Services 1800 814 883 or contact the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26.


For more information contact your local Pfizer Professional sales representative or phone the Pfizer Animal Health Veterinary Services Department on 1800 814 883.

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