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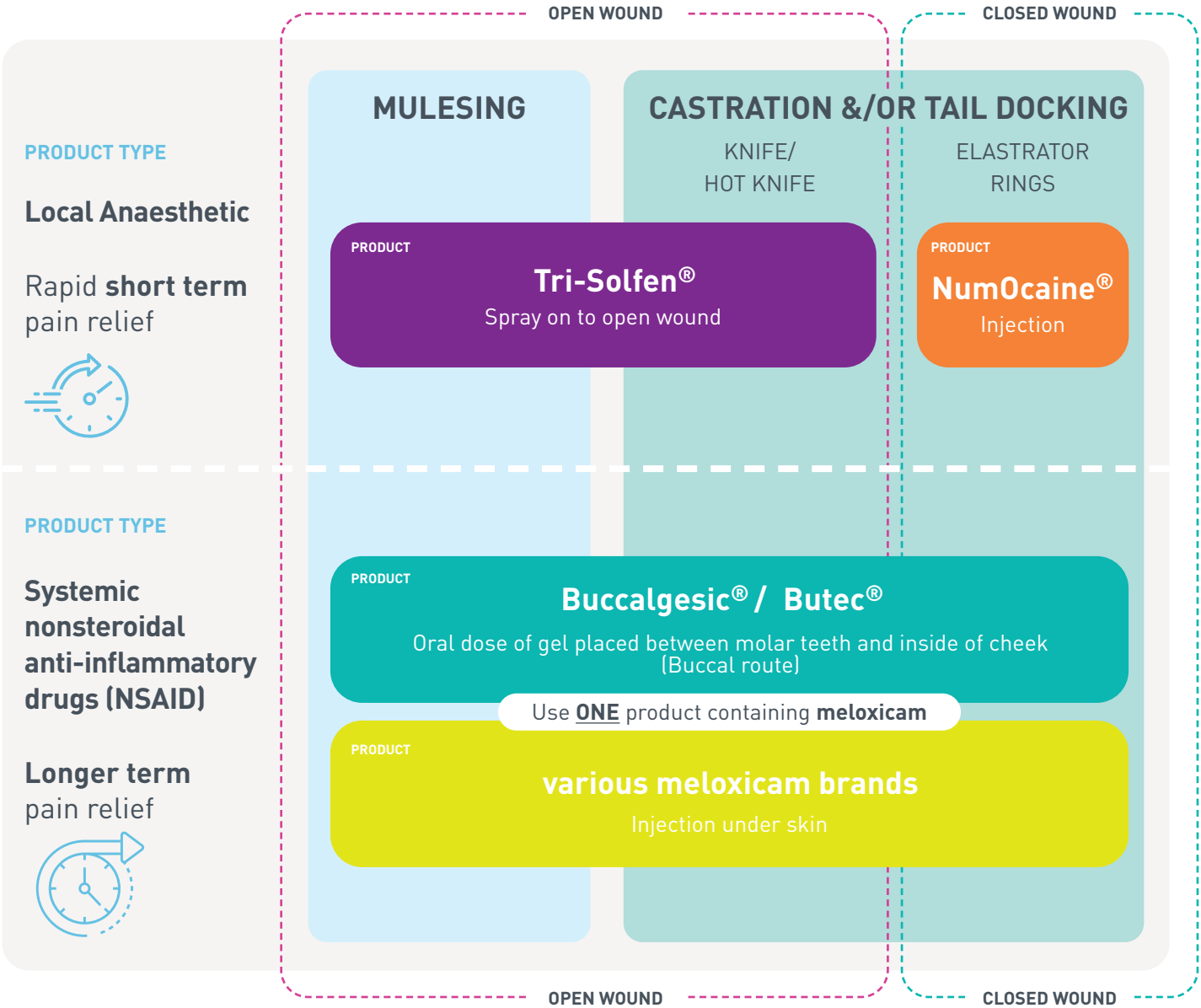
# PAIN RELIEF DECISION SUPPORT FOR LAMB MARKING

**Administering a short-term and long-term treatment to lambs at the same time is industry best practice and will provide both immediate and longer-term pain relief.[1,2,3,4]**




**Note: Always follow correct dosing instructions as per product label, especially with smaller animals. Concurrent administration of Tri-Solfen® and NumOcaine® (which both contain lignocaine), e.g., for mulesing + Elastrator ring placement, has not yet been studied. Consult with your veterinarian regarding the best approach for your animals.**

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## RAPID SHORT-TERM PAIN RELIEF

- Starts working within minutes.
- Lasts 45 minutes – 8 hours, depending on product.
- Local anaesthetics in products approved by the APVMA for use in sheep are lignocaine and bupivacaine.
- Applied as spray or injection - blocks all sensations in the area where applied.

## LONGER TERM PAIN RELIEF

- Takes 15-30 minutes to work (if administered at the time of marking, will be effective by the time local anaesthetic has worn off).
- Lasts approximately 1-2 days.
- Provides pain relief (analgesia) but does not block all sensation.
- Reduces swelling.

The only NSAID treatment currently approved by the APVMA for use in sheep is **meloxicam**. It is available from several brands, only one of which should be used at a time in a single animal. It is available as a subcutaneous injection, or as a gel to dose into the cheek space (buccal route).

## RAPID SHORT-TERM PAIN RELIEF

| | SPRAY-ON FOR OPEN WOUNDS | LOCAL INJECTION |
|---|---|---|
| **Product** | Tri-Solfen® Topical Anaesthetic & Antiseptic Solution for Pain Relief in Lambs and Calves | NumOcaine® Injectable Pain Relief delivered by NumNuts® device |
| **Suitability** | OPEN WOUNDS<br>(Mulesing, knife or hot knife tail docking and castration) | CLOSED WOUNDS<br>(Elastrator rings) |
| **Contains** | Two local anaesthetics (lignocaine + bupivacaine) lasting up to 8 hours. Adrenaline which reduces bleeding and helps retain product; Antiseptic which reduces chance of infection | One local anaesthetic (lignocaine) that lasts approximately 45 minutes. |
| **Current meat withholding period*** | 90 days | Nil |
| **Where to purchase** | Available from veterinarians and rural retailers | Available from veterinarians and rural retailers |

## LONGER-TERM PAIN RELIEF (1-2 DAYS)

| | SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION | BUCCAL GEL |
|---|---|---|
| **Product** | Meloxicam 20 mg/ mL (various brands available) | Buccalgesic® and Butec®, both containing meloxicam 10 mg/mL |
| **Current meat withholding period*** | 11 days | 10 days |
| **Where to purchase** | Available from veterinarians | Available from veterinarians (Buccalgesic®) and rural retailers (Butec®) |

*ESI for most products is similar to the meat WHP but it is advised to check with manufacturer or APVMA in case of changes

# INDICATIVE COSTS

Please note that all costs are **indicative only** (as of March 2023) and will vary based on aspects including but not limited to: supplier mark-up, individual brand (for meloxicam 20 mg/mL injectable), quantity purchased, delivery costs, and changes in RRP. Prices do not include outlay for any dedicated equipment needed to administer the product, and some may require a prescription (e.g. for meloxicam injectable products).

## Tri-Solfen® indicative cost per procedure

| PROCEDURE | ANIMAL BODY WEIGHT | DOSE VOLUME | APPROXIMATE COST† |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mulesing** | 5 – 10kg | 6 mL | $1.30 |
| | 11 – 15 kg | 8 mL | $1.70 |
| | 16 – 20 kg | 10 mL | $2.20 |
| | Over 20 kg | 12 mL | $2.60 |
| **Tail docking (knife)** | Up to 10 kg | 1.5 mL | $0.30 |
| | Over 10 kg | 2 mL | $0.40 |
| **Castration (knife) dose given in 3 separate fractions** | Up to 10 kg | 3 mL | $0.70 |
| | Over 10 kg | 4.5 mL | $1.00 |

† cost based on 1 litre pack size priced at suggested retail price of $218

## NumOcaine® indicative cost per procedure

$0.77 per 1.5 mL standard dose (all animal bodyweights). A separate dose is needed for each Elastrator ring applied. Cost calculated based on a single bottle of NumOcaine® priced at $50 on the NumNuts® website.

## Meloxicam indicative cost per animal

| ANIMAL BODYWEIGHT | MELOXICAM 20 MG/ ML | | BUCCALGESIC®/ BUTEC® 10 MG/ ML | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | DOSE VOLUME | APPROX COST‡ | DOSE VOLUME | APPROX COST# |
| **10kg** | 0.5 mL | $0.60 | 1 mL | $0.50 |
| **15kg** | 0.75 mL | $0.90 | 1.5 mL | $0.70 |
| **20kg** | 1.0 mL | $1.20 | 2 mL | $1.00 |
| **25kg** | 1.25 mL | $1.50 | 2.5 mL | $1.20 |

‡ cost based on a 250 mL bottle of meloxicam 20 mg/mL priced at $310; price averaged across several brands and retailers (requires prescription)

# cost based on RRP of $222.50 for a 450 mL bottle of Butec® (RRP provided by manufacturer)

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?


1. Meat and Livestock Australia 2020, Fact Sheet: Pain Mitigation in Sheep, www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/program-areas/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/20mla-pain-mitigation-factsheet_sheep_v4.pdf
2. Australian Wool Innovation Limited, Analgesia and Anaesthesia, https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/analgesia-anaesthesia/
3. Australian Sheep Sustainability Framework 2021, Australian Sheep Sustainability Framework, www.sheepsustainabilityframework.com.au/globalassets/sheep-sustainability/media/ssf-final-21_lr.pdf
4. Australian Wool Innovation Limited 2020, PLAN, PREPARE AND CONDUCT BEST WELFARE PRACTICE LAMB MARKING PROCEDURES TRAINING GUIDE, www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/research-publications/welfare/non-invasive-management-practices/plan-prepare-conduct-best-practice-lamb-marking-training-guide.pdf