**What is Virbagen Omega?**
Virbagen Omega is a lyophilisate (freeze dried pellet) and solvent that is made into a suspension for injection. Virbagen Omega contains the active substance recombinant omega interferon of feline origin at 10 MU/ vial. It is used for dogs and cats.

**What is Virbagen Omega used for?**
Virbagen Omega is used to reduce mortality and clinical signs of parvovirosis in dogs from one month of age.
Virbagen Omega is also used to treat cats infected with FeLV and/or FIV, in non-terminal cats from the age of 9 weeks.
Dogs: The suspension should be injected intravenously once daily for 3 consecutive days. The dose is 2.5 MU/kg bodyweight.
Cats: The suspension should be injected subcutaneously once daily for 5 consecutive days. The dose is 1 MU/kg bodyweight. The studies used to obtain the marketing authorisation for Virbagen Omega also administered two further 5-day treatments at 14 days, and 60 days after the first 5-day course.

**Are there any other conditions that Virbagen Omega has been used “off-label” to treat?**
Please contact the Virbac Technical Department if you wish to discuss a case you are considering using Virbagen Omega in.

**How does Virbagen Omega work?**
Virbagen Omega contains the active substance recombinant omega interferon. Interferons are a family of naturally occurring proteins that are produced in response to viral infections. Virbagen Omega works by stimulating the immune system to attack the virus. The active substance of Virbagen Omega, omega interferon, is produced by ‘recombinant technology’. The omega interferon is made by a cell that has received a gene (DNA), which makes it able to produce omega interferon. The replacement omega interferon acts in the same way as naturally produced omega interferon.
FAQs – Virbagen Omega

How has the effectiveness of Virbagen Omega been studied?
Virbagen Omega has been studied in dogs (males and females) of at least five weeks old that were infected with parvovirois. Virbagen Omega 2.5 MU/kg was given intravenously for 3 days. The main measure of effectiveness was the mortality rate compared with dogs that had not been treated. Virbagen Omega has also been studied in the treatment of anaemic or non-anaemic cats infected with FeLV and/or FIV, from the age of 9 weeks. The main measure of effectiveness was the mortality rate compared with cats that had not been treated and clinical signs after treatment.

What benefit has Virbagen Omega shown during the studies?
The mortality rate for dogs treated with Virbagen Omega was 4.4-6.4 times lower than that of the untreated animals. Anecdotally dogs treated with Virbagen Omega appear to require shorter periods of intensive care and barrier nursing than those that are treated with conventional, conservative therapy alone. In one trial (deMari and others) the mean clinical scores of the interferon treated group were significantly better from day 4 than the placebo treated group.
In the treatment of cats with FeLV, there was a reduction of clinical signs over 4 months and a reduction in the mortality rate. In anaemic cats, the mortality rate in cats infected by FeLV (about 60%) was reduced by about 30%. In non-anaemic cats, the mortality rate (50%) was reduced by 20%. In cats infected by FIV, the mortality rate was low (5%) and was not changed by the treatment. In the population of cats (whether they were FeLV positive, FIV positive or co-infected by both viruses), there was a reduction of clinical signs over time, improving the quality of life of cats.

I have a case that has been ill for a few days and have only just diagnosed Canine Parvovirus infection, is it still worth using Virbagen Omega?
The benefits of Virbagen Omega are greatest when it is used early in the course of clinical disease (especially if it is before there has been significant destruction of the intestinal villi), however, Virbagen Omega can still be of benefit even if there has been a delay in starting treatment.
What is the risk associated with Virbagen Omega?
The injection of Virbagen Omega may cause the following temporary symptoms in dogs and cats:
hyperthermia (increased temperature, 3-6 hours after injection)
transitory vomiting
soft faeces to mild diarrhoea, in cats only
fatigue during the treatment, in cats only
There may be a slight decrease in white blood cells, platelets and red blood cells, and a rise in the concentration of alanine aminotransferase (a liver enzyme). These symptoms return to normal in the week after the last injection.

How soon after treating with Virbagen Omega can I vaccinate an animal?
Dogs: Vaccination during and after VIRBAGEN OMEGA treatment is contra-indicated, until the dog appears to have recovered.
Cats: as vaccination is contra-indicated in the symptomatic phase of FeLV/FIV infections, the effect of VIRBAGEN OMEGA on cat vaccination has not been evaluated.

What pack sizes does Virbagen Omega come in?
Virbagen Omega comes either in a box containing 2 vials of powder fraction (2 x 10MU) and 2 vials with 1 ml of solvent or a box containing 5 vials of powder fraction (5 x 10 MU) and 5 vials with 1 ml of solvent.

Is Virbagen Omega available as an oral solution?
Virbagen Omega only comes in the presentations listed above. If you require further information on oral interferon please contact the Virbac Technical Department.

Is Virbagen Omega available as eye drops?
Virbagen Omega only comes in the presentations listed above. If you require further information on interferon eye drops please contact the Virbac Technical Department.
Must I use Virbagen Omega immediately after reconstitution, or can any remaining drug be used for injections on subsequent days?

As Virbagen Omega does not contain a preservative, the SPC states that the product should be used immediately after reconstitution. Please contact the Virbac Technical Department for further stability data.