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Dermatology: Highlights from the Journals

Use of modified ciclosporin in the management of feline pemphigus foliaceus: a retrospective analysis. Irwin, KE, Beale KM, Fadok VA. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2012; 23:403-409

Method: Records were reviewed from cats diagnosed with pemphigus foliaceus during a 10 year period. 6 cats were in the cyclosporine-treated group, 6 cats in the chlorambucil-treated group. Most cats in both groups received systemic glucocorticoids. The investigators evaluated time to disease remission, glucocorticoid dose to induce remission, maintenance glucocorticoid dose, disease response and adverse effects.

Results: All six cats in the cyclosporine group were scored as having a "good" response and completely weaned off the glucocorticoids. Four of the chlorambucil-treated cats were scored as having a "good" response, one having a "fair" and one having a "poor" response. Two of the six cats in the chlorambucil group were weaned off glucocorticoids. There was no significant difference in remission times or disease response between the two groups. In the cyclosporine group, one cat experienced hypertrichosis, one had short-term diarrhea and one had intermittent diarrhea. These effects were considered mild and did not necessitate a dosage adjustment. One cat developed multicentric lymphoma after 4 years of cyclosporine treatment. It was not known whether the cyclosporine may have contributed to the onset of neoplasia. One cat developed *Mycobacterium avium* complex after 3 years of therapy. In the chlorambucil-treated group, one cat with leukopenia and another with anorexia required dosage reductions.

Take home message: Modified cyclosporine is effective and glucocorticoid-sparing in the management of feline pemphigus foliaceus. The development of *Mycobacterium avium* in one cat emphasizes the importance of keeping cats indoors while on cyclosporine.

Long-term maintenance therapy of canine atopic dermatitis with 0.0584% hydrocortisone aceponate spray (Cortavance®) used on two consecutive days each week. Lourenco-Martins AM, Sao-Braz B, Schmidt VM, Reme CA, Nuttall T. *Veterinary Dermatology* 2012; 23s1: 39.

Method: 41 dogs with atopic dermatitis were treated once daily to remission with 0.0584% hydrocortisone aceponate (HCA) spray. Dogs were then assigned to receive either HCA spray or placebo spray on two consecutive days each week.

Results: The time to relapse requiring topical or systemic anti-inflammatory or antimicrobial therapy was significantly longer in the HCA group (median 115 days) versus the placebo group (median 33 days). No adverse effects were seen in dogs treated with the HCA spray.

Take home message: Treatment of canine atopic dermatitis with 0.0584% hydrocortisone aceponate (Cortavance®) spray on two consecutive days a week is effective and well tolerated.



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Dr. Beck received her veterinary medicine degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1996 and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. She spent almost 14 years in general small animal practice and began her residency in veterinary dermatology in 2009. In 2012, she became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Dermatology. She has been with the VEC since 2009, where she treats a variety of dermatological conditions including allergies, immune-mediated disease and ear problems.

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