

Research Note:

Ganciclovir Use in Cats with Feline Herpesvirus-1

Feline herpesvirus-1 (FHV-1) is a primary cause of painful corneal and conjunctival ulcerations in cats. Various topical ophthalmologic treatments have been assessed, and in vitro data suggest ganciclovir has superior efficacy as compared with other ophthalmologic medications. This study first confirmed the in vitro efficacy of ganciclovir for FHV-1, then evaluated the safety and tolerability of topically applied 0.15% ganciclovir eye gel (GEG) in healthy cats. No significant differences were noted between eyes treated with GEG versus a lubricating eye gel; however, both gels caused minor ocular irritation. No systemic changes were noted. Additional studies are needed to investigate the efficacy of GEG in cats with ocular clinical signs as a result of FHV-1 infection.

Source

Lewin AC, Liu CC, Alling C, Camacho-Luna P, Miessler B, Carter RT. In vitro efficacy of ganciclovir against feline herpesvirus type 1 and assessment of ocular tolerability in healthy cats. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2020. doi:10.1177/1098612X20944363.

Research Note:

Demyelinating Polyneuropathy in Miniature Schnauzers

In humans, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease consists of several hereditary motor and sensory peripheral neuropathies. An analogous condition was recently identified in 12 miniature schnauzers (age of onset, 3-18 months). Clinical signs at presentation were megaesophagus (11 dogs) and aphonic bark (11 dogs), with and without obvious neuromuscular weakness. Electrodiagnostic testing identified marked decreases in motor and sensory nerve conduction velocities, including in dogs without neuromuscular weakness. Treatment was aimed at clinical signs and included head elevation during and after feeding, as well as administration of antacids, gastroprotectants, prokinetics, and antiemetics. Clinical signs progressed to significant pelvic limb weakness, muscle atrophy, decreased flexor reflexes, and delayed postural reactions in one dog. Death directly attributed to the disease occurred in only 1 other dog due to aspiration pneumonia.

Source

Farré Mariné A, Granger N, Bertolani C, Mascort Boixeda J, Shelton GD, Luján Feliu-Pascual A. Long-term outcome of miniature schnauzers with genetically confirmed demyelinating polyneuropathy: 12 cases. *J Vet Intern Med*. 2020;34(5):2005-2011.