

## FOCUS Feline Diabetes? Consider Glargine

IM administration or CRI of regular insulin has long been accepted as ideal initial treatment for feline diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA); however, regular and glargine insulin, when administered IV in humans, have almost identical effects on blood glucose concentrations and similar duration of action, prompting inquiry into whether this holds true for cats. The aim of this retrospective study was to determine the success and outcome of administering IM glargine, with or without concurrent SC doses, during initial stabilization of DKA in cats.

Glargine insulin was administered IM to 15 cats with DKA based on published protocols for using regular insulin IM; 12 of the cats were also given SC doses of glargine during initial treatment, followed

by additional IM and SC glargine doses. Treatment success was based on ketosis resolution, appetite return, and hospital discharge on a regimen of SC glargine insulin with survival past 2 weeks without DKA relapse. All cats survived initial treatment and were discharged from the hospital after a median of 4 days. Median time until all cats were managed with SC glargine as their sole insulin therapy was 24 hours. Based on this and other studies, the current recommendation for DKA is to administer glargine (1 U/cat SC) immediately and concurrent IM glargine (0.5–1 U/cat) several hours after fluid resuscitation before being managed with SC glargine alone.

### ■ Commentary

This study demonstrated successful treat-

ment of DKA using glargine with diabetic remission achieved in one-third of patients. Although glargine has many advantages (eg, decreased cost, use of insulin that can be used long-term), the protocol for IM and SC glargine injections was variable and catered to individuals. This suggests that veterinarians should have a high level of comfort and experience with this insulin and that initial trials using glargine for treatment of DKA should include careful monitoring to avoid hypoglycemic crises as well as electrolyte and mineral imbalances.—*Jennifer Ginn, DVM, DACVIM*

### ■ ■ Source

Intramuscular glargine with or without concurrent subcutaneous administration for treatment of feline diabetic ketoacidosis. Marshall RD, Rand JS, Gunew MN, Menrath VH. *JVECC* 23:286-290, 2013. ■ **cb**



## Freebies

### Rewarding Healthy Smiles

**Greenies Brand** has launched its **Facebook Veterinary Portal** to help veterinary professionals communicate more effectively with clients outside the practice. The portal features a CE-accredited webinar, social media posts, and downloadable content veterinarians can use as client resources. The **Greenies Healthy Paws Application** is included to help drive digital clientele traffic to veterinary practice pages on Facebook. Veterinary professionals can reward clients with customized healthy smile certificates for exemplary pet dental care. To access the Veterinary Portal, visit [facebook.com/greenies](https://facebook.com/greenies).



### Beyond Change

#### Beyond the Medicine

is a free web portal launched by **Novartis Animal Health US** to help veterinarians stay current with industry changes in caregiving and business management.

Beyond the Medicine is intended to provide current, relevant content to enhance practice growth, scientific understanding, and industry partnerships. To learn more, visit [BeyondTheMedicine.com](https://BeyondTheMedicine.com). ■ **cb**



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