

also no significant differences in time to transition to subcutaneous insulin or overall duration of hospitalization. Although not specifically stated as an aim of the study, when the authors split the cats into newly diagnosed or chronically insulin-treated, the newly diagnosed diabetics had a significantly faster resolution of acidosis regardless of insulin type used.

Although both insulin preparations were well-tolerated, adverse effects included hypokalemia in all 18 DKA episodes; 2 episodes of subclinical hypoglycemia, both in the regular insulin group (glucose, <80 mg/dL); and 3 cases of hypophosphatemia requiring supplementation (2 in the regular insulin group and 1 in the lispro group).

... TO YOUR PATIENTS

Key pearls to put into practice:

- 1** Lispro, administered using a previously published constant-rate infusion protocol for regular insulin, is a safe and efficacious therapy for feline DKA management.
- 2** Adverse effects of lispro are similar to regular insulin, with hypokalemia, hypophosphatemia, and hypoglycemia most commonly encountered.
- 3** Lispro cannot be considered equivalent to regular insulin when given intramuscularly or subcutaneously without further studies done in cats.
- 4** Even with a recent manufacturer-based price reduction, lispro is currently more expensive than most regular insulin preparations.

References

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Research Note: Hair & Saliva Testing for Identification of Allergic Dogs

This study evaluated the ability of a commercial hair and saliva allergy test to correctly identify allergic and non-allergic dogs through comparison of test results with a veterinary dermatologist's diagnosis. Fur and saliva samples were submitted from a known allergic dog and a known nonallergic dog; fake fur and saliva samples were also submitted. Replicate samples from the allergic and nonallergic dogs were also used to evaluate reproducibility of the test. The distribution of sample test results for allergic, nonallergic, and fake dogs was no different than what the distribution due to random chance would have been. Reproducibility was found to be poor to slight. In addition, particular allergens were overrepresented as "bad" and others as "good" across all samples, suggesting a systematic bias in allergen reporting. The authors concluded that hair and saliva testing is not a substitute for veterinary-directed allergy evaluation and diagnostics and should not be used for diagnosis of allergies in dogs.

Source

Coyner K, Schick A. Hair and saliva test fails to identify allergies in dogs. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2019;60(2):121-125.

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