Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: Which Drug?

In this study, 40 cats without clinical signs of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) presented with a heart murmur or gallop and were examined. Twenty-one were confirmed to have subclinical HCM and were enrolled in a double-blind, randomized, prospective study. The cats were either treated with benazepril (0.5 mg/kg PO once daily) or with diltiazem CD (10 mg/kg PO once daily). Cats were evaluated at day 0 and 3 and 6 months after therapy. Monitoring included baseline laboratory analysis, physical examinations, systolic arterial blood pressure, thoracic radiographs, and echocardiography. In the benazepril treated cats, the diastolic transmitral flow of the E and A waves (E–A ratio) increased significantly during the 6 months. In addition, the thickness of the left ventricular free wall in systole decreased significantly between 0 and 3 months. None of the parameters changed in the diltiazem CD group. When the 2 treatment groups were compared, no difference between the 2 groups was found. Thus, the findings in the benazepril group may have been incidental or due to the small number of cats enrolled in the study. *Study funded by Novartis Animal Health Canada, Inc and University de Montreal*

COMMENTARY: Unless you are very interested in feline HCM, you can get the practical information from just reading the abstract on this one. —*Chris Wong, DVM*

Benazepril and subclinical feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: A prospective, blinded, controlled study. Taillefer M, Di Fruscia R. ***CAN VET J*** 2006:437-445, 2007.