

FDA grants conditional approval for drug delaying start of congestive heart failure in canines

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This chewable tablet is the first drug on the market for delaying the onset of Stage B2 preclinical myxomatous mitral valve disease in canines. Officials with the FDA have granted conditional approval pimobendan chewable oral tablets for delaying the onset of congestive heart failure in dogs with Stage B2 preclinical myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD), according to the company. This conditional approval is the first for a drug indicated to treat canines within the preclinical stage of MMVD that show signs of a heart murmur and an abnormally enlarged heart but are not yet in congestive heart failure. Although MMVD occurs in many dog breeds, it occurs most often in smaller dogs such as Yorkshire terriers, cavalier King Charles spaniels, and dachshunds.

'Seek and destroy' cancer trial explores nonsurgical therapies

VPN, June 23rd 2022



The novel treatment may have an impact on how cancer can be treated in both humans and pets. A first-of-its-kind non-surgical cancer therapy is currently being tested at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Canada.

Called a "seek and destroy" alternative therapy option, the treatment combines light-activated nanoparticles called porphyrins with photodynamic therapy (PDT). While PDT (i.e. use of laser light to destroy tumors) is not a novel

therapy, the trial marks the first pairing of it with a new nanoparticle technology, which was developed by Gang Zheng, PhD, a researcher at the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto, the University of Guelph reports. The technique might, ultimately, offer a targeted, nonsurgical way to diagnose and treat tumors in pets and humans, which could prevent over-treatment and reduce common side effects. The light-activated molecule's fluorescent glow allows researchers to track its location using a special light source. Additionally, the porphyrins make the tissue more vulnerable to damage from laser light. A beam of near-infrared laser light directed through a nanofiber activates the porphyrin, which then destroys cancerous tissue.

Research links raw meat diets to higher presence of bacteria

JSAP, June 24th 2022



A study has found Salmonella and antibiotic-resistant forms of Escherichia coli are more commonly present in dogs fed raw meat diets, compared to those that are not. Scientists from the University of Liverpool analysed nearly 200 faecal samples for the study, which has been published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice. And the authors believe their findings should be used to advise owners of the potential risks of raw feeding, despite fierce debate about the merits of the approach within

the veterinary sector. A total of 190 samples were collected from around 140 dogs for the study. Of those, 114 were from raw-fed dogs, with 76 from non-raw-fed animals.

A dog was considered to eat a raw diet if any element of it that was fed at least once a week was not cooked. The researchers found 62 of the samples from raw-fed dogs (54.4%) contained an antimicrobial-resistant form of E coli, compared to 13 (17.1%) of their non-raw counterparts. A total of 53 raw samples (46.5%) contained a tetracycline-resistant form of the bacteria, against 10 (13.2%) of the non-raw group. Additionally, third-generation cephalosporin-resistant and multidrug-resistant forms were found in 35 (30.7%) and 28 (24.6%) of the raw samples, with only three each (3.95%) in the non-raw cohort. A total of 8 (7%) of the raw samples were also found to contain Salmonella, compared to none of the non-raw samples.

STUDY

Pimobendan conditional approval – First FDA approved drug to delay onset of Congestive Heart Failure in dogs

The sponsor conducted a long-term, multi-center field study in client-owned dogs that had cardiomegaly secondary to Stage B2 preclinical MMVD. Enrolled dogs weighed 15 kgs (33 lbs) or less, were of both sexes, and were between 6 and 17 years of age. Dogs were eligible for inclusion if the following Stage B2 preclinical MMVD criteria were met: moderate to high intensity systolic heart murmur (grade $\geq 3/6$); echocardiographic evidence of MMVD, mitral regurgitation, and left atrial dilatation; increased left ventricular internal-diastolic diameter; and radiographic evidence of cardiomegaly. Various breeds were represented in the study, with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels being the most common breed. The study lasted over 4 years. Enrolled dogs had physical and cardiac examinations on Day 0 and at several other timepoints throughout the study.

Results & Conclusions - The results of the field study demonstrate that there is a reasonable expectation of effectiveness for pimobendan to delay the onset of congestive heart failure in dogs with Stage B2 preclinical MMVD that have a moderate or loud mitral murmur due to mitral regurgitation and cardiomegaly. Based on the data submitted by the sponsor for the conditional approval of pimobendan, FDA determined that the drug is safe and has a reasonable expectation of effectiveness when used according to the labeling.

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