Poster presentations

the risk-benefit assessment each clinician needs to make when considering their use.

OBJECTIVE

To quantify the risk for feline DM associated with use of exogenous progestogens and glucocorticoids in Romania.

METHODS

This retrospective cohort study used the clinical records of all cats presenting to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Iasi, Romania, between 2005-2014. The following parameters were assessed: signalment, weight, DM diagnosis and exogenous progestogens and/or glucocorticoids (including topicals) exposure. Patients were divided into five groups: PE: progestogen-exposed; GE: glucocorticoid-exposed; NPE: no progestogen-exposure; NGE: no glucocorticoid-exposure; NPGE: no progestogen or glucocorticoid-exposure. Period prevalence (PP) of DM in each group was calculated, as well as odds ratios (OR), including 95% confidence intervals (95% CI). DM risks were compared using Chi-square (significance level $p < 0.05$).

RESULTS

In total 5175 cats were included in the study, of which 65 were diagnosed with DM (PP 1.3%; 95%CI: 0.99–1.61%; 38 males,

27 females, mean weight 4.9 ± 1.2 [SD] kg, age 9.7 ± 3.4 years). The PE-group ($n=750$) was treated median 2.7 (range 2–4) times/year with progestogens and had DM diagnosed in 21 cases (PP: 2.8%; 95%CI: 1.62–3.98%; OR: 2.89; 95%CI: 1.71–4.90; OR [male]: 1.35; 95%CI: 0.59–3.09; OR [female]: 7.66; 95%CI: 3.57–16.46). The GE-group ($n=802$) was treated with glucocorticoids during a median 1.6 (range 1–3) episodes prior to consultation and had DM diagnosed in 13 cases (PP: 1.6%; 95%CI: 0.73–2.47%; OR: 1.38; 95%CI: 0.75–2.55%; OR [male]: 1.61; 95%CI: 0.76–3.41; OR [female]: 0.95; 95%CI: 0.32–2.78%). The NPE group ($n=4425$) had DM diagnosed in 44 cases (PP: 1%; 95%CI: 0.71–1.29%), significantly less than in the PE-group ($p < 0.001$). The NGE ($n=4373$) contained 52 diabetic cats (PP: 1.1%; 95%CI: 0.79–1.41%), not significantly less than in the GE-group ($p=0.31$); and the NPGE-group ($n=3623$) 31 (PP: 0.8%; 95%CI: 0.51–1.09%), significantly less than in GE+PE-groups combined ($p < 0.001$).

CONCLUSIONS

Progestogen and/or glucocorticoid administration was documented in more than half of all diabetic patients on record. An 8-fold increased risk for contracting DM after exposure to progestogens was documented in females. Clinicians contemplating the use of such drugs should take account of these results and inform cat owners about this specific diabetogenic risk.

The prevalence and risk factors of feline upper respiratory tract disease in four shelters in the UK

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Feline upper respiratory tract disease (FURTD) is an important management problem in rescue shelters in the UK. This disease not only affects the welfare of cats, but affects shelters on a larger scale, reducing adoptability and wielding economic impacts. Previous studies have attempted to estimate the prevalence of FURTD in UK shelters, but the results reported are difficult to interpret due to the complicated nature of the disease. In addition to the logistical challenges of data collection in shelter environments, prevalence studies of FURTD are particularly difficult to perform, due to the possibility of co-infection with a number of bacterial and viral pathogens. Additionally, multiple risk factors are implicated in infection, and many infectious agents exist in latent carrier states.

The aim of this cross-sectional study was to determine the prevalence of clinical signs of FURTD in cats housed in four shelters. Cats were observed for ocular and/or nasal discharge,

coughing, sneezing, respiratory effort and general demeanour, using a previously published semi-quantitative scoring system (0 to 3/3; 0 = no clinical signs, 3 = severe clinical signs). Information about each cat, including gender, age, vaccination status, and number of days since shelter intake was also recorded. Shelter information, such as shelter size and annual intake numbers, cage types, number of staff and veterinary support, was documented to further assess potential risk factors for disease.

The overall prevalence of FURTD in the four shelters was 25.6% (16.4–31.2%). FURTD prevalence was significantly higher in cats under 6 months old (56.8%) compared to older cats. Prevalence was also higher in males (30%) compared to females (20%, $p=0.0001$). Cats with no previous history of vaccination also appeared to be at greater risk than vaccinated cats (57.9% compared to 32.4% respectively, $p=0.0005$). Shelters which group housed cats had an increased prevalence of FURTD, while those with comparatively smaller numbers of cats and those with outdoor accommodation had lower prevalences of FURTD. However, the interpretation of these factors is limited due to the small number of shelters surveyed.

Understanding the risk factors for FURTD in shelter cats could facilitate a reduction in prevalence, raise awareness and underpin methods for disease prevention and control. However, further research is required to investigate the relative importance of these factors on FURTD prevalence and to formulate evidence-based management plans to reduce disease incidence in UK shelters.

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