Oral presentations

Challenging the dogma: low incidence of adverse effects of trimethoprim-sulfadiazine in 1402 dogs in charity practice

David Mills

PDSA Thamesmead Hospital, London, United Kingdom
Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To document the incidence and type of adverse reactions seen in dogs given oral trimethoprim-sulfadiazine for a variety of conditions.

METHODS

Retrospective analysis of dogs given oral trimethoprim-sulfadiazine over a 3 year period at a charity hospital.

Signalment, clinical indication and adverse effects detected at follow up were analysed.

RESULTS

1402 dogs were included. Staffordshire Bull Terriers were the most common breed (n=736, 52%), followed by Mastiff (n=322, 23%) and Terrier breeds (n=140, 10%). The median dose was 17.2 mg/kg q12h (range 13.1–20.2 mg/kg). Pyoderma was the most common indication (n=981, 70%), followed by gastrointestinal disease (n=336, 24%) and otitis externa (42, 3%).

Adverse effects were documented in 28 dogs (2%). These were limited to gastrointestinal effects of vomiting (n=23, 1.6%) or diarrhoea (n=5, 0.4%) which stopped after drug withdrawal. Polyarthropathy, KCS, sterile folliculitis, and other previously documented adverse effects were not noted in any dogs.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Despite being inexpensive and indicated in a wide number of conditions, trimethoprim-sulfadiazine has traditionally been thought and taught to carry a high risk of various serious adverse effects. This study demonstrates that adverse effects seen in first opinion practice are minimal and mild, which should lead to a re-appraisal of the usefulness and safety of this drug class.

Booster vaccination consultations: what do vets do currently and how can we make the most of them?

**Natalie Robinson, Marnie Brennan,
Zoe Belshaw, Rachel Dean**

Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine, The University of Nottingham, Loughborough, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Vaccination consultations account for a large proportion of the veterinary caseload. The aim of this study was to determine what happens during booster vaccination consultations and what strategies veterinarians are using to maximise the benefits of these consultations.

METHODS

An online survey of UK veterinarians was conducted. Respondents were asked how frequently they would conduct various aspects of the clinical examination, and how often they would discuss certain topics, during

booster vaccination consultations. Respondents were also asked about any strategies they had used to optimise these consultations.

RESULTS

A total of 662 useable responses were received. Virtually all respondents always auscultated the chest during vaccination consultations (n=603/621, 97.1% during canine consultations; n=587/610, 96.2% during feline consultations), while most respondents rarely or never performed a rectal examination, and performed these less frequently in feline compared with canine consultations (p<0.001). Some topics (e.g. microchipping) were discussed more frequently during canine compared with feline consultations (p<0.001), while others (e.g. neutering) were discussed more frequently during feline compared with canine consultations (p<0.001). Over half of respondents (n=323/597; 54.1%) had tried at least one strategy to optimise vaccination consultations, with supplementary reading material for owners being the strategy tried by the most respondents (n=203/597; 34.0%).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The results suggests that vaccination consultations vary between patients, veterinarians and practices, in terms of the clinical examination performed, topics discussed and strategies used to optimise the consultation. This study has implications for practice by identifying potential ways to maximise the benefits of booster vaccination consultations.