Oral presentations

Assessment of feline blood pressure in primary care practice – The Mercury Challenge, a European survey

Andrew Sparkes¹, Catherine Garelli-Paar², Emilie Guillot²

- 1 Simply Feline Veterinary Consultancy, Shaftesbury, United Kingdom
- 2 Ceva Sant Animale, Libourne, France

OBJECTIVES

Although systemic hypertension is an important and common condition in cats, there is a paucity of information on blood pressure (BP) values typically measured in cats attending primary care practices. This convenience survey was designed to collect BP data from a large number of cats across numerous European countries.

METHODS

From June 2018, Ceva Santé Animale invited primary care clinics to record systolic BP (SBP) data from cats aged ≥ 7 years who had BP measured as part of recognised veterinary practice. Owners granted permission to record anonymised information from the cats on a central database (mercurychallenge.ceva.com), including basic demographic data, information on concomitant disease and/or medications, SBP values, and any antihypertensive therapy given.

RESULTS

By May 2019, data from >6000 cats across 10 European countries revealed that in most (91%) cases it took ≤ 10 minutes to measure SBP, and during the procedure 49% cats were described as 'calm', and 42% as 'co-operative but anxious'. In 94%, SBP was measured via Doppler or oscillometric equipment and recorded mean SBP values were < 140 mmHg in 37.3%, 140–159 in 28.5%, 160–179 in 17.0% and ≥ 180 in 17.2%. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) was more prevalent in cats with SBP ≥ 160 (30%) than in cats with SBP < 160 (19%) $P < 0.0001$

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The results of this survey suggested a high prevalence of cats with potential hypertension and that SBP could be readily measured in most cats in primary care practice. Cats reported to have CKD had significantly higher mean SBP values than those without.

The first Core Outcome Set for cats: the most important parameters to assess in feline CKD treatment

Hannah Doit¹, Rachel Dean², Marco Duz¹, Richard Emes¹, Marnie Brennan¹

- 1 University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom
- 2 Vet Partners, York, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Core Outcome Sets (COS) are recommended for inclusion in future treatment trials so that the results of future research can be compared and combined. The aim of this work was to finalise the COS for cats with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

METHODS

An international panel of 16 stakeholders, including cat owners, clinical experts and regulatory agencies,

participated in a one-day chaired consensus meeting. Previous research using a Delphi approach had resulted in a baseline of 27 parameters for inclusion. Twenty borderline parameters which had the greatest disagreement between different stakeholder groups were addressed. Each was clearly defined, the importance of inclusion debated and then voted on. Consensus was defined a priori as 80% of stakeholders voting it 8 or 9 out of 9. Finally, all parameters were streamlined and amalgamated by discussion and voting, into common core areas.

RESULTS

The final number of parameters after the consensus meeting was 29. These were grouped into 9 core parameter areas: clinical examination, food, blood biochemistry, complete blood count, urine tests, quality of life, survival, progression of CKD and adverse events.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The final COS is recommended for inclusion in all future treatment trials for cats with CKD as it represents the parameters of importance to all those making treatment decisions for these patients in both first opinion and referral practice. This is the second veterinary COS to be created, and the first COS to be created for feline patients.