Tasipimidine, a novel orally active alpha-2 adrenoceptor agonist, alleviates canine acute anxiety associated with owner departure - A pilot study

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OBJECTIVES

The objective was to study the clinical efficacy and safety of tasipimidine in dogs suffering from acute anxiety associated with departures manifested as part of separation anxiety.

METHODS

Twelve privately-owned dogs with a history of separation anxiety were enrolled in a double-blind, placebo-controlled, 3-period crossover clinical field study including randomised 4-day treatment periods each followed by a 3-day washout.

Tasipimidine 10 mcg/kg, 30 mcg/kg or placebo oral solution was administered orally one hour before the owner's departure. Treatment effect on dog's signs of separation anxiety was assessed from video recordings. Owner departure related acute anxiety severity score, dog's alertness, usability and adverse events were recorded.

RESULTS

The primary efficacy variable, i.e., owner assessment of the effect of the study treatment was analysed with a generalised linear model (GLM) using the GEE method for an ordinal response, with cumulative logit as a link function showed a significant treatment effect ($p < 0.001$). When the doses were separately compared to placebo, the effect of tasipimidine 30 mcg/kg was rated more often positive (OR 5.40; 95% CI 1.15–25.2; $p = 0.032$). From the distinct behaviours, significant reduction with the 30 mcg/kg dose was seen in destructive/rearranging behavior ($p = 0.006$) and vocalisation ($p = 0.036$).

Most of the dogs were scored to be “fully responsive” (66.7%) and able to “stand up and walk normally” (91.7%) at all time points and no dogs were scored unresponsive or unable to walk. No serious adverse events were reported. The majority of the owners found the product very easy (75.0%) or easy (15.7%) to use.

Fig 1: Owner assessment of the effect of the study treatment on acute anxiety related to owner departure

CONCLUSION

In this study, tasipimidine at the dose 30 mcg/kg alleviated acute anxiety associated with owner's departure and the product was considered user-friendly. The effect of tasipimidine in canine separation anxiety should be tested in a larger population.