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www.catvirus.com

Feline chronic gingivostomatitis information factsheet for veterinary surgeons

Aetiology: multifactorial - feline calicivirus (FCV), idiosyncratic immune response to oral antigens, food intolerance, *Bartonella henselae* have all been implicated. These cats occasionally have feline leukaemia virus or feline immunodeficiency virus.

Diagnosis: biopsy of lesions, demonstration of FCV (preferably by virus isolation).

Treatment: extraction of teeth curative in 80-90% of cases, but may wish to begin with conservative treatment consisting of most or all of the following:

Drug doses in FGS treatment

Feline interferon omega*

Subgingival use: A dose of 1 million units (0.2ml of a 5 million unit vial, 0.1ml of a 10 million unit vial) locally into the junction between healthy gum and diseased gum given when the cat is anaesthetised has been reported to have excellent results. However, some cats require more than one treatment and if they are poor anaesthetic risks an alternative may be preferable.

Normal use: 1million units Virbagen Omega per kg every other day subcutaneously for 5 injections, thereafter monitor calicivirus shedding and reduce frequency of injections until cat stops shedding FCV or until a comfortable state has been achieved.

Reconstituted solution can be kept in the fridge for up to 3 weeks, or can be kept frozen for longer.

Antibiotics

Antirobe (clindamycin) 5mg/kg bid for 6 weeks

or **Azithromycin*** 10mg/kg sid for at least 21 days.

or **Doxycycline** 20mg/kg sid for 6 weeks

or **Rifampin*** 10mg/kg sid for 21 days

Painkillers

Fentanyl patch (Duragesic, Janssen) *

Ensure strength of patch is appropriate for the patient. Apply the patch in an area that is out of reach of the patient's mouth and ensure that it is securely bandaged over, and labelled with the date of application and patch size (dose). Ensure the cat is not on a heat pad since that will increase drug absorption and may result in signs of overdose (respiratory depression, bradycardia). The patch will take effect in 6-12 hours and remain effective 24-72 hours.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

Metacam*

Day 1: 0.3mg/kg sid with food
Days 2-7: 0.1mg/kg sid with food

or Ketofen

1mg/kg sid per os for 5 days

***Remember when using drugs off licence to obtain written informed owner consent.**

Food: Classic or possibly Applaws cat food in UK, Wild Kitty Cat Food in USA.

Vaccination: never use a live FCV to vaccinate these cats, even after full recovery. Where vaccines are essential, my personal choice is Purevax RCP (Merial).

For more information, visit www.catvirus.com