Funded Study: Treatment of Feline Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma

University of Illinois Cancer Care Clinic and Comparative Oncology Research Laboratory

Study Title
Evaluation of the Novel Anti-Cancer Drug, IB-DNQ, in Conjunction with Radiation Therapy in Cats Diagnosed with Feline Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma (FOSCC)

Purpose of the Study
Feline oral squamous cell carcinoma is the most common oral tumor affecting cats. Often times these pets present with very advanced disease and current therapies (including surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy) do not provide a significant nor durable response, and cats succumb to this disease in a matter of months. A novel anti-cancer drug, IB-DNQ, has been developed within the Department of Chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and targets a specific enzyme produced in high quantities by cancer cells, particularly in FOSCC cells. It has been shown to have anti-cancer effects as a single agent against FOSCC, and its effectiveness can be enhanced with radiation therapy. Unlike traditional chemotherapies, IB-DNQ targets the cancer cells and spares normal tissues. It is hoped that targeting specific tumor characteristics will result in a better overall response, have less side effects when compared to traditional chemotherapy, and provide a longer and better quality of life for pets who suffer from this cancer. Should you decide to enroll your cat in this trial, it will receive four total treatments (once weekly) of radiation therapy followed by IB-DNQ administration.

Inclusion Criteria
- Cats with histologically or cytologically confirmed oral squamous cell carcinoma
- Cats cannot have been treated with surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy
- Cats cannot be on NSAIDs
- Cats cannot have significant co-morbid illness and must have a survivability of 6 weeks

Eligibility Diagnostics
Prior to study entry, pet owners will be charged an initial consultation fee and be financially responsible and required to have the following diagnostics performed on their cat:

1) Diagnosis of oral squamous cell carcinoma via cytology or histopathology
2) Screening blood work and urinalysis
3) CT scan of the head under sedation or general anesthesia

Treatment
For four weekly treatments, each cat will receive radiation therapy followed by IB-DNQ administered intravenously. At each treatment appointment, full blood work and a urinalysis will be performed as well. One week following completion of treatment, each cat will received a second CT scan of the head.

Compensation
The study will pay for the cost of each recheck appointment associated with the treatments, blood work (CBC and chemistry panel) and urinalysis each week, radiation therapy and IB-DNQ administration. In the event the pet needs nutritional assistance, the study funds will pay for placement of feeding tubes if indicated. Following completion of the treatment protocol, the study will pay for the costs associated with the end-of-trial CT scan that allows for accurate measurement of tumor response to therapy. Pet owners are responsible for initial diagnostics performed to confirm study eligibility (see Eligibility Diagnostics, ~$1,000-1,200).
Contact Information
Please feel free to call our Clinical Trials Coordinator, Rebecca Kamerer, at (217) 300-6453 or Dr. Alycen Lundberg at (217) 333-5311 to refer a patient or for any additional information. Referring veterinarian and client calls are welcome.