

Funded Study: Treatment of Canine DCM using Rapamycin

TriviumVet (Veterinary Research and Development company)

Study Title: Rapamycin Treatment in Preclinical Canine Dilated Cardiomyopathy (The REPAIR Study)

Purpose of Study:

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is the second most common acquired cardiac disease in dogs. The preclinical phase of DCM, often referred to as occult DCM (ODCM), can last for ~2-3 years. Current optimal management of dogs with ODCM includes pimobendan and/or antiarrhythmic medication. Once dogs with ODCM progress to the clinical phase of the disease, dogs often experience congestive heart failure and have limited (<1 year) lifespans with diminished quality of life.

This study aims to investigate if a new treatment, rapamycin, can reduce heart size and improve function during the occult/preclinical stage of dilated cardiomyopathy (ODCM) in dogs already receiving pimobendan. Dogs that pass the echocardiographic and full screening tests are eligible to enroll in this 6-month study.

Inclusion Criteria for Screening:

- Dogs at least three years of age
- Dogs with a prior diagnosis of occult dilated cardiomyopathy (ODCM) and currently treated with pimobendan

Dogs will undergo a number of screening tests to confirm their eligibility for enrollment in the study.

Exclusion Criteria:

Dogs will NOT be eligible for enrollment if:

- They have been diagnosed with other cardiac diseases (congenital or acquired).
- They have/had signs of congestive heart failure.
- They have fainted in the last 3 months.
- They have undergone general anesthesia in the last 30 days.
- They have atrial fibrillation.
- They are receiving diuretics.

Eligibility Diagnostics:

All enrolled dogs will have diagnostic tests required by the study including blood work (complete blood count, biochemistry panel), ECG/Holter, and an echocardiogram (a cardiac ultrasound) conducted at no cost to the owner. In addition, the study will provide pimobendan at no cost to the owner during the course of the study. A Holter monitor deposit fee is charged and refunded when the Holter is returned.

Owner Commitments:

- Owners must be able to make a trip to University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital to participate in the study at the time of screening for enrollment, and again at two, four, and six months after enrollment.
- Owners must be able to answer questions regarding their dog's health at each of the screening visits.

Compensation:

All study diagnostics plus a 6-month supply of pimobendan are provided free of charge.

Contact Information:

Please contact VTHCardiology@vetmed.illinois.edu for inquiries.

