



Cornell University Veterinary Specialists

Canine Clinical Trial



Uncovering Mechanisms of Post-Procedural Hypocalcemia in Dogs with Hyperparathyroidism

Hyperparathyroidism is a disease whereby overactive parathyroid glands produce unchecked amounts of parathyroid hormone that leads to excessive levels of circulating calcium, which can have serious consequences. Primary hyperparathyroidism in dogs can be successfully treated by removal or ablation of the affected glands. These procedures are relatively simple, associated with low morbidity and require only minimal aftercare. However, the most common complication following treatment is hypocalcemia (low calcium levels). Hypocalcemia can be a serious complication that, if left untreated, can result in excitation of the nervous system (tetany and seizures) and life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias.

There are currently no reliable markers or indicators to predict which dogs undergoing treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism will develop hypocalcemia. Current standard of care is to hospitalize all dogs post-procedurally to monitor serum calcium levels.

GOALS This study aims to provide veterinarians with an ability to predict the likelihood of the development of hypocalcemia, and therefore intervene pre or post-procedurally to reduce or eliminate it.

ELIGIBILITY Any dog diagnosed with primary hyperparathyroidism undergoing treatment via either surgical removal or ethanol ablation at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists or the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

COMPENSATION There are no costs to you for your dog to participate in the study. The study will cover all costs of the additional blood samples. The cost of any tests or procedures that are considered standard of care in the treatment of primary hyperparathyroidism including clinically necessary bloodwork, surgery, aftercare and follow-up treatment are not covered by the study and are the responsibility of the owner.

OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- You will be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding your dog's activity level, weight and diet.
- Your dog will have a small amount of extra blood taken prior to, and after, removal of the hyperactive parathyroid tissue. This blood will be used for research purposes to look at levels of vitamin D, calcium and parathyroid hormone and to look at your dog's acid base balance.
- A small amount of urine will be collected by free catch (no needles or catheters) for analysis of calcium levels.
- You may be contacted within 6 months of treatment for questions on your dog's progress.

Interested in
participating?

Principal Investigators:

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Contact/Schedule an Appointment at CUVS:

Please call the Surgery Department at 203.595.2777 or email surgery@cuvs.org.