**Title:**
Evaluation of an herbal therapy for canine pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism: a pilot study

**Investigators:**
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**Study description:**
Hyperadrenocorticism (HAC) is the presence of excessive cortisol, which is most commonly due to the pituitary gland secreting excess adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH). Treatment options for this disease includes surgery, radiation therapy, or medical management with drug therapies; which may be expensive in terms of cost or management of potential adverse events. Evaluation of a less expensive therapy with fewer adverse effects is desirable. Some herbal extracts have been shown to be endocrine disruptors that have been linked to certain disease states; however, they may also be useful in treating endocrine disease. Herbal preparations, such as the one used in this pilot study, may decrease cortisol levels in canine pituitary dependent HAC.

**Inclusion criteria:**
1. Dogs with clinical signs consistent with hyperadrenocorticism
2. Ability for owner to administer scheduled medications
3. Owner consent for study inclusion.

**Exclusion criteria:**
1. Inability to perform physical exam and collect necessary laboratory samples
2. Presence of non-related or clinically active hyperadrenocortical related disorders
3. Dogs with severe systemic hypertension, azotemia with increased SDMA concentration, arrhythmia, or congestive heart failure.

Study participants will have a baseline exam including physical examination, indirect blood pressure measurement, and collection of blood (for biochemistry analysis, blood cell counts) and urine (urinalysis, urine protein to creatinine ratio, and aerobic culture). The herbal supplement will be administered by owners twice daily for the duration of the study. Recheck examinations will occur at 7 to 10 days (time 1) after beginning supplement and at 21 to 28 days (time 2) after beginning supplement. At these rechecks, complete blood cell counts, biochemical analysis, ACTH stimulation test, endogenous ACTH, urinalysis, UPC, body weight, body condition score, muscle condition score, and blood pressure will be performed, in addition to a client questionnaire.

The costs of the office exams, herbal supplement, and required laboratory analysis and ultrasound examination will be paid for by the study. In addition, if all recheck appointments are completed owners will receive $100 for participation.

**Duration of study:**
This study is currently OPEN.

**Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:**
Results from this study may provide veterinarians and pet parents with another treatment option for Cushing’s disease with less side effects than currently accepted treatments for the disease.