Title:
Evaluation of an herbal therapy for naturally occurring hyperthyroidism in cats: a pilot study

Investigators:
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Study description:
Feline hyperthyroidism is a multisystemic disorder arising from excess production of active thyroid hormones from an abnormally functioning thyroid gland. Over time prevalence of the disease has increased and management options include surgical removal, radioactive iodine therapy, feeding a therapeutic thyroid management diet, and administration of antithyroidal drugs; each with some success but also possible adverse effects or ineffectiveness. The use of Chinese herbal medicines with antithyroid drugs may offer benefits of lowered relapse rates, reduced incidents of adverse effects, symptom relief, and improvement of thyroid antibody status. This study will evaluate an herbal supplement on thyroid function in cats with spontaneous hyperthyroidism. We hypothesize that treatment with the herbal supplement will decrease serum thyroid concentrations to normal in cats with this disease.

Inclusion criteria:
1. Cats with clinical signs consistent with hyperthyroidism
2. Serum total T4 concentrations ≥ 6.0 µg/dL
3. Ability for owner to administer scheduled medications
4. Owner consent for study inclusion.

Exclusion criteria:
1. Serum total T4 ≥ 16.0 µg/dL
2. Inability to perform physical exam and collect necessary laboratory samples
3. Presence of non-related or clinically active hyperthyroid related disorders
4. Cats with severe systemic hypertension, azotemia with increased SDMA concentration, arrhythmia, or congestive heart failure.

Study participants will have a baseline exam including a client questionnaire, physical examination, indirect blood pressure measurement, and collection of blood (for biochemistry analysis, thyroid panel) and urine (urinalysis, urine protein to creatinine ratio, and aerobic culture). The herbal supplement will be administered by owners twice daily for approximately 56 days. Recheck examinations will occur 28 days (time 1) after beginning supplement and at approximately 56 days (time 2) after beginning supplement during which the above mentioned tests will be repeated.

The costs of the office exams, herbal supplement, and required laboratory analysis and ultrasound examination will be paid for by the study. In addition owners will receive $100 when their cat completes the study.

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 feline hyperthyroidism with less side effects than currently accepted treatments for the disease.