**Title:** Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of feline interleukin-2 immunomodulator (ALVAC IL-2) as a treatment for equine sarcoid tumors

**Investigator:**
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If interested, please have your primary veterinarian request additional information through the UGA Oncology service by calling the small animal referral coordinator at 706-542-5362.

**Study description:**
The purpose of this proof of concept study is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of an immunomodulator for the treatment of sarcoids in horses. Surgical removal of these skin tumors is the treatment of choice; however, wide surgical margins are required to remove all of the tumor cells which is not always possible due to tumor size or location. An effective treatment that can induce tumor regression with minimal side effects is desired.

**Inclusion criteria:**
1. Horses must have cytologically confirmed, measurable sarcoid tumors
2. Horses must be otherwise healthy without concurrent disease
3. Prior treatment is acceptable but must be discontinued 72 hours prior to enrollment
4. Owners must sign a consent form.

Horses will undergo preliminary staging tests including initial consultation and physical examination, tumor and lymph node measurements, complete blood count (CBC), serum biochemical profile, and tumor cytology (if not previously performed). Once accepted into the study, a 1 mL dose of immunomodulator will be administered into and under the tumor bed in up to five 0.2 mL aliquots. Repeat physical examinations and additional treatments will be given at 1, 2, and 4-weeks after the initial treatment. Four weeks after the 4th treatment, a recheck physical exam and labwork (complete blood count and chemistry profile) will be performed. Horses will be rechecked every 6 weeks for repeat physical examination and tumor measurements.

The immunotherapy will be provided at no cost as part of this trial. In addition, costs of staging tests required for enrollment, farm visits, immunotherapy administration, and labwork required by the study will be covered by study funds. If serious adverse events occur related to immunotherapy administration, up to $800 will be provided by the sponsor to cover treatment costs. Owners will be responsible for costs of ancillary medications such as sedatives, or any other costs unrelated to the study.

**Duration of study:**
The study is currently OPEN. Duration of the study is until progression in tumor size, or a total of 12 months.

**Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:**
Successful demonstration of efficacy and safety of this immunomodulator will lead to large scale clinical trials and may provide a valuable option for veterinarians and horse owners seeking an alternative to surgical removal of sarcoid tumors.