

Assessment of Transdermal Mirtazapine as an Appetite Stimulant in Cats with Chronic Kidney Disease

Client Consent Form

Client ID



What is the study about?

Mirtazapine is a medication that has been used in human medicine as an antidepressant. The drug is widely used in veterinary medicine due to the presence of several desirable effects, namely its significant anti-nausea, anti-vomiting and appetite stimulating properties. It has been shown to be effective in increasing weight and appetite and decreasing vomiting in cats with chronic kidney disease. However, many owners have difficulty administering pills to their cat. We believe that mirtazapine, like many other medications, could be effective when formulated as a transdermal gel that can be applied to the skin of the ear. The purpose of this study is to perform a study to document the appetite stimulation properties of the transdermal form of the drug in cats with kidney disease.

Is your cat eligible to participate?

Cats with stable chronic kidney disease (creatinine 2-5 mg/dL) are potentially eligible for entry into the study. Diagnostic tests required before enrollment include a serum biochemistry profile, complete blood count, urinalysis, urine culture, blood pressure, and thyroid level. Exclusion criteria include other systemic illnesses, complications of CKD such as pyelonephritis or ureteral obstruction, or decompensation of CKD requiring hospitalization and intravenous fluid therapy. Other concurrent therapies such as dietary management, famotidine, potassium supplementation, anti-hypertensive medications and subcutaneous fluids are acceptable if they are given consistently throughout the study period.

What does the study involve?

The study involves bringing your cat into the hospital for three visits and administering a gel to the ear for a total of 6 weeks. There are two treatment periods (placebo transdermal gel, mirtazapine transdermal gel) and your cat will receive both in a randomly determined order. During the two transdermal treatment periods (placebo or mirtazapine) you will administer the gel daily for 3 days then every other day for three weeks, fill out a daily log sheet, and then bring your cat in for the hospital visit on the last day of gel administration. During this day, your cat will get a physical exam and weight, and have a blood sample drawn to check kidney values and to measure how much mirtazapine is in your cat's body.

What are the risks?

The risks involve side effects of the drug including hyperactivity, vocalization, increased affection and appetite. Side effects are transient and are minimal at the dose that will be administered. Mild discomfort during blood draws is possible.

Is there compensation for your participation?

If your cat is eligible, you will receive a complementary CBC, chemistry, urinalysis, urine culture and thyroid level to confirm your cat's health prior to participation. All costs of the visits and the gel medication are covered by the study.

Owner Consent

I have read the explanations of the study provided above and I understand the above stated conditions and I agree to allow my cat to undergo the procedures described above. If I have any concerns or questions related to this study I should contact Dr. Jessica Quimby at (970) 297-5000 or jquimby@colostate.edu.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

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