Is the Viyo Recuperation Diet of benefit for use with dogs with parvovirus enteritis?

The Viyo Recuperation Diet (http://viyorecuperation.com/en/compleet) is a highly palatable, low-calorie, recuperation fluid. Dr. David Twedt in the Department of Clinical Sciences and his research group performed a randomized placebo controlled study of the effects of Viyo Recuperation to dogs following recovery from provirus infections. In that study, Viyo Recuperation was administered daily for 14 days starting at the time of release from the hospital. The following is the abstract of the work that was presented at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Research Day in Fort Collins, Colorado in January, 2013.

The effects of an oral recuperation fluid on the clinical recovery of dogs with parvoviral gastroenteritis.
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Purpose: To prospectively determine if administration of an oral recuperation fluid to dogs recovering from parvoviral gastroenteritis would improve caloric intake, water intake, body weight and fecal scores during the first five days at home when compared to dogs receiving placebo.

Materials/Methods: Dogs with naturally occurring parvoviral gastroenteritis, treated at Colorado State University’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital, were randomized at discharge to either a control or study group. Dog owners, blinded to treatment, administered their dog either 30 ml/day of Viyo Veterinary (study group) or 30 ml/day of water (placebo group) for five days. All dogs were offered, at a minimum, their calculated daily energy requirement of canned Purina EN and 100 ml/kg/day of water. Body weight, total amount of food and water intake, and fecal scoring were recorded daily. Repeated measures analysis of covariance was used to compare changes in body weight, caloric intake (kcal/kg/day) and water intake (ml/kg/day) between groups. Chi Square analysis was conducted on daily fecal scores, and the percentage of prescribed food and water consumed.

Results: A total of 26 dogs (Viyo n=13, placebo n=13) were included. No significant differences were observed between the groups as determined by caloric intake, water intake, percentage of prescribed food or water intake, change in body weight, or Day 2-5 fecal scoring. The Viyo group demonstrated a lower fecal score for the first day (p<0.004), interpreted as more formed stool, compared to the placebo group.

Conclusions: Viyo Veterinary was found to be highly palatable and well tolerated by this group of dogs with no adverse side effects noted. Based on the variables measured, we were unable to identify any differences in the clinical recovery of dogs with parvovirus when administered Viyo versus placebo. Further studies may be warranted due to the small group size and reliance on owners to record a majority of data in this study.

At the completion of the study Dr. Twedt stated “Overall, the owners of the dogs reported good acceptance and no adverse side effects. Because these dogs were eating upon release from the hospital, we were unable to detect a significance difference for most parameters between groups.
However, I believe if Viyo were given at the onset of signs at hospitalization it would likely improve oral intake of both water and nutrition needs.”

Additional studies are being performed to evaluate this hypothesis. Overall, Viyo Recuperation appears to be a very palatable product accepted by almost every patient and may play an important adjunct in the treatment of Parvovirus as well as other disease conditions.

Please contact Dr. David Twedt at david.twedt@colostate.edu if you have questions about this study or other potential uses of Viyo Recuperation.