

Efficacy of Diosmectite in the Management of Chemotherapy-Induced Diarrhoea in Dogs: An Open-Label Randomised Clinical Trial

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Chemotherapy-induced diarrhoea (CID) is one of the most frequent adverse events associated with chemotherapy in dogs. Yet, there is currently no consensus regarding its management. Metronidazole is frequently prescribed, however, there is no evidence supporting its use, which could actually be associated with concerning gastrointestinal dysbiosis. Diosmectite is a natural medical clay, which is widely used for the treatment of acute diarrhoea in humans. There is strong evidence, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, and in multiple species, supporting the use of diosmectite as an antidiarrheal.

The aim of this prospective study was to investigate the efficacy of diosmectite for the management of CID in dogs. We hypothesised that diosmectite would decrease the duration of CID compared to our standard management.

Dogs diagnosed with non-gastrointestinal neoplasia and undergoing maximum-tolerated dose chemotherapy between June 2017 and January 2019 were randomised into 2 groups ("diosmectite" and "standard" groups) and were randomly re-allocated if they developed another CID event. Diosmectite was administered at 0.5 g/kg/day PO divided in 2–3 doses to be initiated at the start of CID. "Standard" management consisted of a course of metronidazole at 10–15 mg/kg PO q 12 h to be initiated if the diarrhoea was not improved after 48 hours. Dogs were assessed weekly with standard quality of life (QOL) and diarrhoea diary forms filled by the owner, and physical examination performed by the clinician. The Waltham Ô faeces scoring system was used to grade diarrhoea.

Sixty-one dogs were recruited during the study period. Twenty-three and 20 grades ≥ 4 diarrhoea events were recorded among the "diosmectite" and "standard" groups, respectively. Median duration of diarrhoea was significantly shorter (12 h versus 96 h) in the "diosmectite" group compared to the "standard" group ($p < 0.001$). Median QOL score was significantly higher (9/10 versus 7.5/10) in the "diosmectite" group compared to the "standard" group ($p = 0.0032$).

Management of CID in dogs with early administration of diosmectite was associated with a faster resolution of diarrhoea compared to our standard management with metronidazole, confirming our initial hypothesis. Diosmectite appears to be effective in the first-line management of CID in dogs, leading to an improved quality of life whilst decreasing antibiotic usage.

DISCLOSURES

Disclosures to report. The diosmectite used for this study was kindly provided by VBS Direct LTD in the form of VBS Clay 100 grams powder pots. VBS Direct Ltd had no involvement in the design or performance of the study, writing the abstract, or the decision to submit it for presentation.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

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