

UTCVM INTERNAL MEDICINE SERVICE

# How much does it burn?

## Evaluation of Gastric Acidity in Cats with CKD

### Purpose:

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is prevalent in cats and may cause decreased appetite, nausea, and vomiting. It is common for cats with CKD to receive many (i.e. > 4) daily medications. This daily “pill burden” may cause stress to both the cat and owner and compromise the human-animal bond. Acid suppressants, such as famotidine and omeprazole, are frequently prescribed, but there are no studies in cats with CKD to determine if these therapies are warranted. Moreover, chronic administration of acid suppressants may not be benign.

**The primary goal of this study is to evaluate the pH within the stomach of cats with advanced CKD to determine if acid suppressants are needed.**

### Eligible cats:

- Stable creatinine 2.9 – 5 mg/dL (IRIS stage III)
- Body weight > 3 kg
- Willing to travel to Knoxville for initial tests or within an hour drive of Knoxville

### Exclusion criteria:

- Presence of concurrent disease (medically controlled hyperthyroidism is acceptable)

### Procedure:

- Blood and urine are collected.
- Clinical investigator will orally administer Bravo pH capsule. Receiver is kept within 6 feet of the cat (at home) for 24 hours. pH capsule passes in the cat’s feces and does not need to be retrieved.
- Study involvement requires one visit for screening, blood work, and pH capsule administration.
- Results of blood work and pH monitoring are faxed to cat’s primary veterinarian.

### Think you have an eligible patient? Contact:

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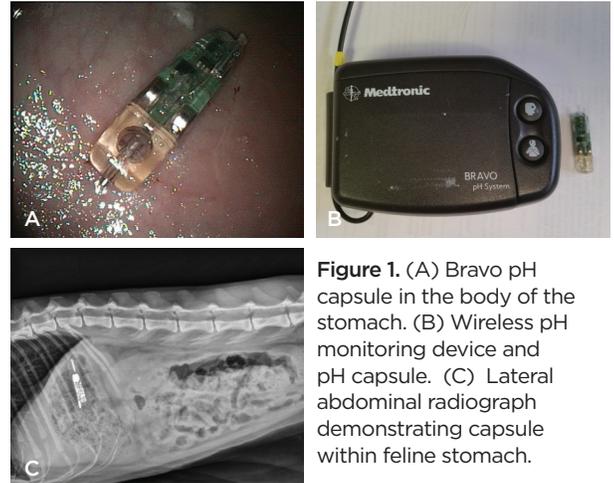
865-974-8387

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**Figure 1.** (A) Bravo pH capsule in the body of the stomach. (B) Wireless pH monitoring device and pH capsule. (C) Lateral abdominal radiograph demonstrating capsule within feline stomach.

### Study pays for (\$1000 value):

- CBC, Chemistry Panel, Urine analysis
- Urine culture
- Total T4
- Blood pressure
- Blood Gastrin
- Gastric pH monitoring with tailored analysis for recommendations on the use of acid suppressants

*No additional monetary compensation or travel stipend provided*