

Prospective Evaluation of Intranasal Fluticasone for Feline Lymphoplasmacytic Rhinitis

Study Objectives

The aim of this study is to determine if cats with chronic rhinitis (FCR) will respond to intranasal steroid treatment. There is no current standard of care treatment for this disease, and it can be associated with significant morbidity, greatly impacting the cat's quality of life.

Cat owners will be asked to fill out a survey (SNIFLD-C questionnaire) to determine how severe their cat's disease is at enrollment, during treatment, and after treatment for 4 weeks. Based on their SNIFLD-C scores, we hope to determine if treatment with an intranasal steroid drop (fluticasone or prednisolone) is better than treatment with a placebo (saline).

Cats diagnosed with biopsy-confirmed lymphoplasmacytic rhinitis (LPR), which is a form of FCR, will be eligible for enrollment. They will be randomly assigned to receive placebo (saline) or fluticasone drops. If a cat does not respond to treatment (either placebo or fluticasone) after 2 weeks, they can be automatically enrolled in a second-tier treatment option (fluticasone for saline cats, and prednisolone for fluticasone cats). We are hopeful that this study can provide evidence-based treatment options for cats with this condition.

Inclusion Criteria

- Cats greater than 1 year of age
- Upper respiratory disease signs (sneezing, nasal discharge, loud breathing/snoring, respiratory difficulty) for at least 3 weeks
- Have received/will receive a head CT
- Have received/will receive nasal biopsy and histopathologic confirmation of lymphoplasmacytic rhinitis
- Cats with otitis media on CT can be included

Exclusion Criteria

- Previous/current diagnosis of neoplastic or inflammatory disease requiring oral chemotherapy, glucocorticoids, or janus-kinase inhibitors
- Previous/current nasal/systemic fungal infections
- Presence of oronasal fistulas or periapical tooth root abscess, oropharyngeal or aural polyps, or nasopharyngeal stenosis
- Presence of foreign body/plant material on CT/rhinocopy
- Presence of mass-like lesions on head CT
- Presence of significant lower respiratory tract abnormalities
- Retrovirus positive



Study Benefits

This study will cover the cost of the visits and lab work required for the trial. This includes a CBC and chemistry panel after 4 weeks of treatment. Additionally, this study will provide the steroid treatment free of charge. Enrolled patients are also eligible to receive cryptococcus testing, retrovirus testing, and respiratory viral testing (Idexx feline PCR Panel) free of charge. If the cat is enrolled in tier 2 treatment, they will receive a repeated exam and CBC/chemistry panels at no charge. The cat may be released from the trial at any point if the owner wishes.

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