

## **Feline Chronic Renal Failure Study**

**Background:** Chronic renal failure is a common problem in the aging feline population. Current management strategies fail to adequately address many of the clinical consequences, especially control of renal secondary hyperparathyroidism. Current treatments for hyperparathyroidism include phosphate binders and vitamin D analogues (calcitriol). These therapies have shown disappointing results in human patients with less than 1% achieving adequate control as defined by the National Kidney Foundation. Similar results have been demonstrated with cats, and many veterinarians are reluctant to institute therapy with calcitriol due to the propensity for hypercalcemia and the need for frequent, life-long monitoring.

**Purpose:** The University of Illinois is soliciting feline cases for a clinical trial involving a new medication recently licensed for treatment of renal secondary hyperparathyroidism in human beings.

**Eligibility:** Prospective patients must have stable chronic renal failure and owners must be able to give the cat oral medication. Potential cases will be screened for the presence of renal secondary hyperparathyroidism with the costs of that laboratory analysis being covered by the study.

**Compensation:** Upon confirmation of renal secondary hyperparathyroidism cats enrolled in the study will have all medical expenses associated with the study paid, including a complete blood count, serum biochemical analysis, T4 level, urinalysis, blood pressure, and abdominal ultrasound. Participants will be provided with the study medication at no charge for 3 months. Rechecks will be performed 2 days after starting the medication, at 1 week, 2 weeks, and then monthly for a total of 3 months.

**Adverse effects:** The most likely adverse effect of this therapy is hypocalcemia and animals will be regularly monitored and dosage adjustments or calcium supplements added as needed. This drug has been well tolerated in the small number of dogs and cats already receiving it.

**Additional information:** Please contact Dr. Melissa Riensche at (217) 244-8321 or [riensche@uiuc.edu](mailto:riensche@uiuc.edu) with questions regarding the study and to enroll prospective feline patients. Thank you for supporting the University of Illinois' research effort!