Desoxycorticosterone pivalate (DOCP) Therapy for canine hypoadrenocorticism in 9 dogs

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Purpose: The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the efficacy of DOCP as a alternative of fludrocortisone in dogs with hypoadrenocorticism.

Matrials and Methods: Nine dogs with hypoadrenocorticism were entered into a study. Hypoadrenocorticism was diagnosed by characteristic electrolyte alteration (hyperkalemia, hyponatremia) and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) stimulation test results. DOCP was administered at a dosage 2.2 mg/kg given IM at approximately 1 month intervals. Clinical signs since the administration of DOCP were recorded and monitored by regular check.

Results: One of these dogs was treated with DOCP initially. Five dogs were initially treated with fludrocortisone and changed to DOCP. Three dogs were initially treated with DOCP and changed to fludrocortisone, converted to DOCP again. Administration interval of DOCP is 24 to 29days. After changing to DOCP, serum sodium, chloride and potassium concentrations were maintained normally, azotemia improved and the shivering signs disappeared in six dogs.

Conclusion: The results suggest that DOCP could be better choice for managing the hypoadrenocorticism in dogs especially in small breeds showing adverse effects, poor responses.

Key words: DOCP, mineralocorticoid, hypoadrenocorticism, fludrocortisone acetate

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