New clinical trial for dogs with osteosarcoma studies the safety and tumor response of Salmonella-IL2 in combination with Adriamycin

Board-certified surgeon Dr. Vicki Wilke is investigating an attenuated strain of Salmonella IL2 in addition to standard of care in treating dogs with osteosarcoma. Salmonella-IL2 has been shown to be safe and to reduce tumor volume in various animal species.

Study participants must meet the following criteria:

• Apart from a recent diagnosis of osteosarcoma, the dog is otherwise healthy.

• Osteosarcoma is limited to one limb and has not metastasized.

• Owners are willing to pursue amputation and chemotherapy.

• The dog has not received steroids for two weeks prior to entering the study.

• The dog has not had previous surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation treatments for the osteosarcoma.

The study covers the costs of a bone biopsy, Salmonella study medication, fecal cultures, amputation, and all rechecks up to day 28 (up to $2,000).

If you have a potential candidate for the study or have questions, please contact Amber Winter, CVT, at 612-624-1352 or alwinter@umn.edu.

New clinical trial for dogs with hemangiosarcoma

Board-certified pathologist Dr. Jamie Modiano is investigating an experimental substance called SRCBST (sarcoma bispecific targeted toxin) added to standard-of-care chemotherapy for dogs diagnosed with splenic hemangiosarcoma. This is a dose-finding trial to determine the safest dose of SRCBST that is effective. SRCBST has been shown to be safe in other species and can kill hemangiosarcoma cells in the laboratory. The results of this study will provide information to develop a therapy for both dogs and humans with this incurable disease.

Study participants must meet the following criteria:

• Diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma (restricted to the spleen)

• Have undergone splenectomy prior to enrollment, which can be done by the referring vet or the Veterinary Medical Center (call us to ask about biopsy samples needed)

• Weigh more than 7 kg (15.4 pounds)

• No evidence of metastasis

• Not taking cyclophosphamide, cytotoxic drugs (chemotherapy), or alternative medications

• No concurrent kidney, liver, or heart disease or problems with blood clotting

The study covers pre-enrollment diagnostics (including PET-CT); days 1, 3, 6, and 8 study drug; blood sampling; and second PET-CT (if applicable) — a $9,000 value. In addition, the study covers up to $3,300 in chemotherapy costs.

If you have a potential candidate for the study or have questions, please contact Amber Winter, CVT, at 612-624-1352 or alwinter@umn.edu.
Participants still sought for other current clinical trials

- **Dogs with brain cancer** are needed for a clinical trial using a breakthrough experimental gene therapy treatment. For more information, visit www.cvm.umn.edu/cic/current/braintumortrials/.

- **Dogs with acute trauma or hemorrhage** are needed for evaluation of a non-invasive emergency device. The study will pay for baseline blood tests.

- **Dogs with immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA)** are needed for an evaluation of the effectiveness of aspirin and heparin therapy. The study will pay for the cost of aspirin or heparin therapy.

- **Dogs with status epilepticus** are needed for an evaluation of a new seizure medication in addition to standard of care.

- **German shepherd dogs with or without an ununited anconeal process (UAP)** are needed for DNA collection.

Clinical trial examines the use of BOTOX to relieve joint pain

Dr. Elizabeth Pluhar, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, and Dr. Erin Corbin, a surgical resident, are looking for healthy dogs diagnosed with chronic elbow osteoarthritis to study the use of intra-articular botulinum toxin (BOTOX) for pain relief compared to a placebo. Dogs will be randomly assigned to one of two treatment groups and receive an intra-articular injection of BOTOX or saline. All study participants will have the option of being treated with BOTOX while enrolled in the clinical trial.

Study participants must meet the following criteria:

- Dogs over 20 kg (44 pounds) with an obvious gait abnormality (one forelimb clinically worse than the other)

Pain relief is monitored via client questionnaires, lameness examinations, elbow measurements, and force platform gait analysis. Recheck examinations are at one, three, and six months. Once a dog is enrolled, the study covers the cost of injection and all recheck examinations.

If you have a potential candidate for the study or have questions, please contact Sara Pracht, CVT, at 612-626-3574 or prach011@umn.edu.

Clinical trial for dogs with atopic dermatitis will evaluate a new injectable product to reduce itching

Board-certified dermatologist Dr. Sheila Torres is launching a new clinical trial using an investigational injectable product to help relieve itching associated with atopic dermatitis. The 56-day study will require six visits to the VMC for treatment and follow-up. Owners will be asked to withdraw their dogs from any oral/ topical steroids and antihistamines before enrollment.

Study participants must meet the following criteria:

- Over 1 year of age and generally healthy, with a history of year-round allergies/atopic dermatitis

- Have undergone a food trial to eliminate food allergies

- Currently mildly to severely pruritic and flea-free

- Infection-free and not on long-term antibiotic therapy

The study covers the cost of all the study visits, and owners receive $400 in compensation for time and travel.

If you have a potential candidate for the study or have questions, please contact Sara Pracht, CVT, at 612-626-3574 or prach011@umn.edu.

For more information about ongoing clinical trials or to refer a case, please call 612-624-2485, visit our website at www.cvm.umn.edu/cic, or e-mail us at vcic@umn.edu.