

Other Instigated Therapies

Treatment with recombinant feline interferon-omega has been shown to decrease disease severity and, in some studies, also significantly reduce mortality. This is interesting since other studies have not shown a benefit when using this treatment for Feline Parvoviral infections.

Treatment with recombinant granulocyte colony-stimulating factor may actually cause harm to patients with parvoviral enteritis. Due to the increased cell turn over there might be increased viral replication. In contrast, use of canine granulocyte colony stimulating factor was investigated and showed an improvement in the neutrophil counts as well as shortening of the duration of hospitalization in dogs with parvovirus. There was however a significant increase in mortality so further investigation is required before this can be considered a useful therapy.

Immune plasma that has been recovered from a dog that survived the disease has anecdotally thought to improve outcome in some institutions. A study in 2012 out of Colorado showed that administration of a single 12ml dose of immune plasma was not effective in ameliorating clinical signs, reducing viremia or hastening recovery of patients with parvovirus.

Oseltamivir (Tami-Flu) is a neuraminidase (NA) inhibitor designed to treat human influenza. It inhibits the viral NA enzyme preventing cleavage of sialic acid residues. This in turn reduces release of new viral particles from the host cell. Canine Parvovirus does not rely on NA for effective replication and therefore oseltamivir should not have specific anti-parvoviral activity. It has been speculated that the medication has action against the NA of bacteria within the gastrointestinal tract that may be responsible for secondary bacterial infections as a result of translocation. A study performed in 2009 out of Auburn University found that there was no clear advantage to using this medication as there was no difference in overall length of hospitalization, morbidity or mortality between groups. It was noted that the dogs who received oseltamivir gained weight and did not have significant drops in their white blood cell counts when compared to control dogs that did not receive oseltamivir.