

locum workers, are not provided with access to CPD which is paid for by an employer.

Forms of application for grants and further information may be obtained from Derek Thorpe, head of finance, at the BVA.

Yours faithfully,
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A new approach to cancer therapy

Dear Sir,

I would like to inform my colleagues of a new approach to cancer therapy which has been developed by a member of our profession, John Carter. It is designated CV247. It is an oral treatment and a salt-free and artificial chemical additive-free diet is part of it.

Three controlled trials have been conducted on this treatment at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Department of Oncology, by Professor Peter Beverley, then the head of the Tumour Immunology Unit of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. CV247 was administered to mice with malignant tumours. He concluded that the treatment caused a statistically significant reduction in the rate of tumour growth in the treated, compared to the untreated subjects. He added in his report that there were no side effects attributable to the treatment.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate then suggested that an appropriate veterinary expert should study the treatment and submit his report on it. I was asked to do this because I have had 34 years' experience of advising on animal studies for cancer research and have, since the 1986 Act, been the NVS of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and of the Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research. Because I have also experienced clinical work in general practice throughout this time, I agreed that I would monitor, in my personal capacity as an independent clinical observer, an open study on the effect of the treatment on firmly diagnosed cancers supported by pathology reports in cats and dogs.

Twenty-six cases were selected for the study, four of which had been diagnosed prior to its commencement. Animals which would

not eat, or where the owners lived at such distances that they were not prepared to travel regularly for treatment, could not be included, although some owners did come on a regular basis to Harrow from as far away as Wiltshire or Yorkshire.

In this study I found no evidence of toxicity or side effects. In fact, an improvement in the general health and behaviour of most patients was not only obvious to the owner but also to the independent observer. Of the 26 cases treated, all were advanced and 16 were considered to be terminal. There was an increase in well-being in 24 of the cases including all the terminal cases. There was an observable regression of tumours in 15 cases and a considerable or an apparent full regression in nine cases, seven of which are briefly described:

1. A Collie bitch (13 years) diagnosed at the Animal Health Trust to have a sublingual melanoma. Prognosis: will require euthanasia within four to six months. No drugs would have any effect. Radiotherapy might reduce it but will still die of secondaries. After seven months of treatment the tumour had shrunk to less than a quarter of its original size. The dog was lively, alert and eating well. There was no indication of secondary tumours.
2. A K. C. Spaniel bitch (eight years) diagnosed with lymphosarcoma. Prognosis: guarded to poor. Response to chemotherapy likely to be poor. After 24 months' treatment the dog appears to be well with good appetite and normal behaviour. Its lymph nodes are palpable but considerably reduced in size.
3. A Rough Collie dog (10 years) diagnosed at the RVC Hospital to have gastric carcinoma. Prognosis: without surgery survival is not likely beyond four months. Owner declined surgery. After two years' treatment the dog was fit and well with a shiny coat, good appetite and had no symptoms of gastric carcinoma.
4. A K. C. Spaniel (eight years) dog diagnosed to have lymphoma by biopsy. Despite chemotherapy it continued to deteriorate, so this was discontinued. The owner was then told that euthanasia

would be necessary within two months. After 18 months' treatment with CV247 the dog appears to be well with good appetite and normal behaviour. Only one lymph node is still enlarged but reduced in size.

5. A Doberman dog (eight years) diagnosed at the RVC Hospital to have carcinomatosis with marked cachexia and ascites, the tumour extending into the abdominal organs. Prognosis: no possible treatment, immediate euthanasia recommended. After three months' treatment he appeared to be in good condition with no ascites, normal weight, eating well and playing with other dogs.
6. A Doberman bitch (eight years) diagnosed at the University of Cambridge Veterinary Hospital to have a transitional cell carcinoma of the urethra infiltrating the neck of the bladder. Prognosis grave, no treatment possible. Two years after commencing treatment with CV247 she was fit and lively, and passing urine normally with no sign of blood. On the treatment a rapid improvement was seen.
7. A female cat (one year) diagnosed by biopsy to have fibrosarcoma of the forelimb, amputation was recommended. Six years after the commencement of CV247 she is alive and well with no indication of the tumour.

Initially the patient is treated either daily or on alternate days for the first two or three weeks. Then, if response is satisfactory, it is progressively reduced. Hopefully CV247 will be a licensed veterinary medicine available to all our members in the not too distant future.

Yours faithfully,
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Hounded by an Afghan

FOLLOWING the publication of Intervet's new Cardiovet ad, where the "blonde" in a convertible turns out to be an Afghan hound, a retired veterinary surgeon wrote to Intervet with his own tale of an Afghan being mistaken for a blonde — only on this occasion it caused a little marital misunderstanding!

