

EFFICACY OF A CHONDROITIN SULFATE-BASED PRODUCT ON CANINE OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Background : The medical management of canine osteoarthritis includes not only anti-inflammatory drugs but also symptomatic slow acting drugs used successfully in the treatment of human osteoarthritis such as chondroitin sulfate-based products.

Aims : A controlled multicentric clinical study was performed on 110 dogs suffering from lameness to test the efficacy, the persistence of the therapeutic effect after the end of treatment, and the safety of two anti-arthritis products.

Methods : Dogs were considered for inclusion if they had clinical evidence of lameness in one limb and radiographic evidence of osteoarthritis. Dogs were randomly assigned to two groups: the first group received by oral route a chondroitin sulfate-based product at 15 mg/kg per day for 60 days and the second group received by oral route a meloxicam-based product at 0.1 mg/kg per day for 28 days.

Response of the dogs was evaluated each month for 4 months. A lameness grading system was used to assess response to treatment. Scores for five clinical parameters (lameness, pain, joint stiffness, reluctance to stand up and to exercise) were added to generate a cumulative score. The cumulative scores for each group were compared according to the test of repeated measures analysis of variance. Multiple comparisons were performed with the Scheffe test.

Results : In dogs that received the chondroitin sulfate-based product, the long-term effects, assessed by the cumulative clinical scores on day 90 and day 120, were significantly better ($p < 0.05$) than the long-term effects of meloxicam. On day 60, the cumulative clinical score obtained with chondroitin sulfate was already better than with the other product.

Conclusion : The results indicate that the chondroitin sulfate-based product provides a higher long-term effect (up to 2 months after the end of treatment) than the meloxicam-based product.