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Calicivirus treatment pdf

Edited December, 2017 Cat Calicivirus Infection Guidelines were first published in J Feline Med Surg 2009; 11: 538-546 and updated in J Feline Med Surg 2015; 17:570-582; this update of the head of vaccination was sanctioned by Alan Radford. Watch a video interview with Professor Alan Radford, Liverpool Click here to download the file Feline Calicivirus cat calicivirus virus (FCV) is a highly contagious pathogen with widespread prevalence in the cat population. It belongs to the family Caliciviridae, genus Vesivirus; caliciviruses include important human pathogens (such as the Norovirus virus, one of the most common causes of infectious gastroenteritis in humans) and animals, including the European brown hare syndrome virus and the rabbit haemorrhagic virus (Green et al., 2000). Calicivirus particles are hexagonal or star-shaped and show a hollow in the form of a cup in electron microscopic drugs; The name comes from the Greek calix, meaning cup or cup (Figure 1). Fig. 1. False colored electronic micrograph of calicivirus particles (virions) Virus has a small single-stranded RNA genome of positive (messenger) polarity, allowing it to develop rapidly. It is enclosed by several copies of the main capsid protein, the most variable, probably, immunodominant protein domain (mainly aimed at the host's immune response; Tohya et al., 1997; Radford et al., 1999; Geissler et al., 2002). Despite this variability, there is enough antigenic overlap between isolates to classify viruses as a single serotype (Povey, 1974; Povi and Ingersoll, 1975). However, there are antigenic differences between FCV isolates (table 1), which creates significant difficulties in trying to maximize cross-protection of vaccines. Genetically the majority of FCV belong to one diverse genotype (Glenn et al., 1999; Geissler et al., 1997); the second genotype was recently described in Japan (Ohe et al., 2006). Fig. 2. At high magnity on the surface of the virion are visible epimorphic cuticles (calix). © Marian K. Horzinek Table 1. The results of cross-tests for neutralization between potassiviruses strains (vertical) and corresponding hyperimmune goat antisera (horizontal). Symbols: - neutralization in both directions; 1/2 - one-way neutralization; Lack of neutralization; Kalunda et al., 1975. Epidemiology There are no known reservoirs or alternative hosts for FCV, and people are not susceptible to infection. In addition to having proper calicivirus dogs, FCV-like viruses have been isolated from dogs (Hashimoto et al., 1999; Roerink et al., 1999; Martella et al., 2002; di Martino et al., 2009). Their role in epidemiology in both uncatena (Birns et al., 2000; Helms et al., 2005), but probably likely The virus is spilled mainly with oral and nasal secretions in acute disease. On recovery, many cats continue to shed, most of them in at least 30 days after infection, several over several years (Wardley, 1976). A small proportion of cats may be resistant to infection (Coyne et al., 2006a) probably depends on the factors of the host strain and the virus. Cat calicivirus infection is widespread in the general cat population. The prevalence is generally proportional to the number of cats in the household and is highest when large groups are placed together. It is low in domestic cats, hosts in small groups (10%; Wardley et al., 1974), but in colonies or shelters, data between 25% and 40% were reported (Wardley et al., 1974; Coutts et al., 1994; Bannash and Foley, 2005; Helms et al., 2005). The prevalence in individual colonies is variable, ranging from low (Radford et al., 2001; Coyne et al., 2006a) to a maximum (50-90%) Values (Radford et al., 2003; Coyne et al., 2006a). Infection usually occurs in direct contact with secretions in acutely infected and carrying cats (Wardley, 1977). However, the virus survives in the environment and remains infectious for one month on dry surfaces at room temperature and even longer in colder conditions (Douttree et al., 1999; Duizer et al., 2004; Clay et al., 2006). Therefore, indirect transmission can occur, especially within the immediate boundaries of the nursery, where secretions can contaminate cells, feeding and cleaning products or staff. The virus can also remain infectious in feces fleas for up to 8 days, and kittens can be experimentally infected with FCV when exposed to infected feces or their faeces (Mencke et al., 2009). Cat pathogenesis can be infected with FCV through the nasal, oral or conjunctival route. Ororax is the main place of replication. Transitor viraemia occurs 3-4 days after infection, after which the virus is detected in many other tissues. The virus causes necrosis of epithelial cells: bubbles, usually on the edge of the tongue, are transferred to ulcers; in the affected areas, the dermis penetrates neutrophils. Healing takes place within two to three weeks (Gaskell et al., 2006). FCV may be less likely to resent other issues, leading to pneumonia (foca alveolite, progresses in areas of acute exudative pneumonia, and then to proliferative, interstitial pneumonia) and chromote (rice. 3.) Acute synovitis was observed with thickening of the synovial membrane and elevated synovial fluid (Dawson et al., 1994). The pathogenesis of chromium syndrome is not clear; immune complexes are thought to play a role (Bennett et al., 1989). The virus can also be isolated from affected joints (Dawson et al., 1994). Fig. 3. Chromium syndrome calicivirus infection ©Uwe Truyen Pathogenesis systemic disease caused by FCV (VS-FCV) differs from the typical picture described above. These strains cause widespread vasculitis, involving multiple organs and death of up to two-thirds of infected cats (Pedersen et al., 2000; Hurley and Sykes, 2003; Schorr-Evans et al., 2003; Coyne et al., 2006b). The pathogenesis of VS-FCV infection is unknown and may include viral evolution and/or components with an immune mediator, as well as environmental and control factors (Hurley, 2006). Recently, these virulent strains have been shown to grow at a faster rate in cell culture (Ossiboff et al., 2007). After recovering from an acute illness, most cats do not clear the infection within 30 days; minority sheds the virus for much longer, perhaps for life. In these healthy FCV carriers, the virus can be localized in the epithelium of the tonsils. However, tonsillectomy does not eliminate the host state, suggesting that the virus is also found elsewhere. It is believed that the evolution of the variable capsid protein allows FCV to avoid the host's immune response and persist in carrier cats (Johnson, 1992; Kreutz et al., 1998; Radford et al., 1998; Coyne et al., 2007). Passive immunity immunity acquired by maternal-derived collosal antibodies (MDA) is essential for protection during the first weeks of life and may interfere with vaccination. There are only a few data on the scale and life expectancy of FCV MDA in cats. In general, their levels are higher and last longer than that of feline herpes (FHV-1). In the pilot study, the average half-term MDA was defined as 15 days, and their preservation as 10-14 weeks (Johnson and Povey, 1983). However, in a field study, 20% of kittens aged just six weeks had no detectable antibodies against the widely used vaccine strain (Dawson et al., 2001). The active immune response virus neutralizing antibodies (VNA) appear about seven days after infection (Kahn et al., 1975). In general, antibody are higher than those of FHV infection, and their levels are well correlated with protection against homologous problems (Povey and Ingersoll, 1975). There is a significant degree of antigenic variability among FCV strains, but it has been concluded from studies in cross-reactivity virus that FCVs belong to the same serotype (Povey, 1974). Pre-infection with a single strain can significantly reduce acute clinical signs when exposed to a heterologous strain, and in some cases oral shedding may be reduced (Povey and Ingersoll, 1975; Knowles, et al., 1991). Overall, the level of heterology protection will depend on the strains of the virus involved. Cats can also be protected in the absence of detectable VNA (Knowles et al., 1991; Poulet et al., 2005), offering a role for other immune mechanisms: indeed, cellular reactions have been demonstrated in vaccinated cats (Tham and Studdert, 1987). In addition, antibodies IgG and IgA were showcased in during the infection (Knowles et al., 1991), although their importance in protection is unknown. Clinical signs of FCV infection can cause acute oral and upper respiratory signs, but have also been associated with chronic stomatitis, which can be immune-mediated. Recently, a new syndrome, virulent systemic cat calicivirus (VS-FCV) disease, was described. Fig. 4. Mild epithelial defects after a surge in calicivirus attack ©Sann-Yvonne Michalevich Acute oral and upper respiratory tract clinical findings may differ, depending on the virulence of the FCV strain concerned, on the age of the affected cats and on the factors of the husband. While in some cases subclinical infection, in many others, there is a typical lingual ulcer syndrome (Figure 4, 5) and a relatively mild acute respiratory disease. The more severe signs may resemble respiratory diseases caused by FHV-1. Fig. 5. Characteristic language card forms of lesions due to infection of FCV ©Marian K. Horzinek Acute oral and upper respiratory disease signs are mostly seen in kittens. The incubation period is 2 to 10 days (Hurley and Sykes, 2003). Oral ulcers, sneezing and serous discharge from the nose are the main signs (Gaskell et al., 2006). There is also a fever. Anorexia, sometimes accompanied by hyperphagia) due to oral erosion located mainly on the tongue, is usually much more noticeable than the signs of rhinitis (rice. They are usually resolved after a few days. In some severe cases, pneumonia, which occurs dyspnoe, cough, fever and depression, especially in small kittens, may occur. Fig. 6. Hyper-life due to oral ulcers after FCV infection. Chronic STOMATIS FCV can be isolated from almost all cats with chronic lymphoplasmic cell gingivitis/stomatitis complex, and many cats tested positive for PCR (Dowers et al., 2010; Belgard et al., 2010). It has been suggested to be an immune mediated reaction to FCV (and possibly others) oral antigens and is characterized by severe proliferative/ulcerative faucitis. However, the disease has not been replicated experimentally (Knowles et al., 1991), and the exact role of FCV remains unclear. Although FIV and Bartonella were also offered to be involved, the evidence is limited (Glaus et al., 1997; Dowers et al., 2010; Belgard et al., 2010); consensus they are not related to the disease in most cases. Chromote syndrome Acute transient lameness (rice. 3.) fever may be associated with FCV infection (Pedersen et al., 1983; Ter Wee et al., 1997) and vaccination. In the natural infection, this occurs a few days or weeks after acute oral or respiratory symptoms (Pedersen et al., 1983; Bennett et al., 1989). Virulent systemic cat calicivirus (VS-FCV) infection Outbreaks of high virulent and often fatal FCV infection in domestic have been described in the United States and Europe Europe Et al., 2000; Coyne et al., 2006b; Reynolds et al., 2009). One outbreak has also been described in exotic ferids in captivity in the US (Harrison et al., 2007). The disease was called haemorrhagic fever (Pedersen et al., 2000) and high virulent cat calicivirus disease (Schorr-Evans et al., 2003). Strains of the virus-causing virus are most commonly referred to as virulent systemic cat calicivirus (VS-FCV); however, the term is somewhat misleading, as all FCV infections are systemic - but the disease caused by other FCV strains is usually local. The incubation period for natural cases of VS-FCV infection in cats exposed in hospitals is usually 1-5 days; in the home environment it can hundreds of 12 days (Hurley and Sykes, 2003). The disease appears to be more severe in adults than kittens. Vaccination did not protect cats from field infections (Hurley and Sykes, 2003), although some protection was experimentally shown (Pedersen et al., 2000; Brunet et al., 2005). It is not known whether this is due to the characteristics inherent in hypervirulent strains or simply that the strains of the vaccine receptive are unlikely to arrive for outbreaks, as vaccination is widely practiced (Pedersen et al., 2000; Hurley, 2006). Fig. 7. VS-FCV virulent systemic disease ©Tim Gruffydd-Jones Unlike common strains, VS-FCV causes systemic disease characterized by severe systemic inflammatory response syndrome, spread by intravascular coagulation (CIC), multi-organ insufficiency, and usually death. Mortality is up to 67% (Foley et al., 2006). Clinical signs of this form of the disease are variables. Initial findings are often typical of severe acute upper respiratory tract disease. Characteristic signs are skin swelling and ulcerative lesions of the skin and paws (Hurley and Sykes, 2003). Swelling is located mainly on the head and limbs (figure. 7). Cortical lesions, ulcers and alopecia can be seen on the nose, lips and ears around the eyes (figure. 8) and on the footrests (Figure 9). Some cats jaundice (for example, because of necrosis of the liver, pancreatitis); some of them may manifest severe respiratory distress (e.g. due to pulmonary edema). Thromboembolism and coagulopathy caused by DIC can be observed including petechiae, ecchimos, epistaxis or bloody faeces (Hurley and Sykes, 2003; Coyne et al., 2006b). Fig. 8. Solid lesions and sores due to vs-FCV infection ©Tim Gruffydd-Jones Fig. 9. Virulent systemic calicivirus disease, excoriations of the paws ©Uwe Truyen Other clinical photos FCV has also been involved in other diseases such as polyps and cystitis; there is no evidence of these associations (Klose et al., 2010; Larson et al., 2011). Diagnosis due to the impromptu media phase, as well as the fact that viruses in live vaccines can sometimes be spilled after vaccination et al., 2011), caution should be exercised when any positive FCV result due to poor correlation between the presence of the virus and clinical signs (Sykes et al., 1998). The VS-FCV diagnosis is based on clinical trials, high contagion and high mortality rates and isolation of the same strain from the blood of several disease cats assessed by the sequencing of hypervariable areas of the capsid gene. Detection of nucleic acid Conventional, embedded and real-time reverse transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR) tests have been developed to detect FCV RNA in conjunctival and oral tampons, blood, skin scraping or lung tissue, depending on the clinical form and outcome of the disease. The diagnostic sensitivity of RT-PCR may depend on both the origin used and the detected strain due to the high variability of the viral genome; therefore, molecular analyses should be optimized using a large panel of strains to minimize false negative results. The PCR multiplex has also been designed to detect at the same time as FHV-1 and FCV (Sykes et al., 2001), but such analyses may be less sensitive. In addition to the possibility of diagnosing FCV infection, RT-PCR provides tools for unambiguous identification of the virus strain and has proven to be useful in molecular epidemiology and outbreak research. However, consistent genetic markers associated with virulence, in particular hypervirulent strains, are not yet available (Abd-Elidaim et al., 2005; Foley et al., 2006; Ossiboff et al., 2007). Isolation Virus Isolation Virus (VI) is a useful method for detecting FCV infection; it indicates the presence of virus replication and has the advantage of being less sensitive to the effect of strain change than RT-PCR. FCV replicates in the cellular lines of feline origin; its rapid growth in tissue culture may jeopardize the detection of simultaneous herpesvirus (Pedersen, 1987). The virus may be isolated from nasal, conjunctival or orco-pharyngeal tampons (Gaskell and Dawson, 1998), but VI may fail due to the small number of virions in the sample, inactivation of the virus during transit or the presence of antibodies in extracellular fluids that prevent replication of the virus in the test tube. The chances of success vi can be maximum if tampons are collected from both conjunctiva and ororax (Marsilio et al., 2005). Serology FCV antibodies can be detected by neutralizing the virus or ELISA (Lappin et al., 2002). Seroprotection is generally high in cat populations due to natural infection and vaccination. Consequently, the presence of specific antibodies is not helpful in diagnosing infection (Gaskell and Dawson, 1998; Grade I EBM). VNA levels can be used to predict whether a cat is protected or not, but should be interpreted properly as false negative results be obtained if VNA does not cross-respond with the laboratory strains used in the test. In addition, the credits may appear higher when homologous rather than heterologous pairs of virus-antibody virus-antibody (When the strain used is not defined, it makes it difficult to interpret the results (Scott and Geissler 1997, 1999; Dawson et al., 2001; Gore et al., 2006). Treatment of acute diseases of the upper respiratory tract Cats seriously affected by FCV infection need intensive care and supportive therapy. Resolution of dehydration and recovery of electrolyte and acid-bases disorders preferably by the introduction of intravenous fluid is required in cats with severe clinical signs. Food intake is extremely important. Many cats with FCV infection do not eat mainly due to pyrexia and/or mouth ulcers, sometimes also due to their loss of sense of smell due to nasal congestion. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can be used to reduce temperature and oral pain. Food can be used to cause less pain while eating, should be very tasty, and can be warmed up to increase the smell. If the cat does not eat for more than three days, the placement of the tube for feeding and enteral nutrition is indicated. At the doctor's discretion, antibiotics should be given to cats with serious illnesses and suspicion of secondary bacterial infection. Broad-spectrum antibiotics should be selected. It is very important to use antibiotics with good penetration into the airways and/or mouth. If there is a discharge from the nose, it should be cleaned several times a day with saline solution, and the ointment should be applied locally. In the nasal mucosa can be useful drugs with mucolytic under the influence (e.g. bromhexin), and to combat dehydration of the airways can be used nebulization with saline solution. Antiviral therapy for acute upper respiratory tract disease Most antiviral drugs used in veterinary medicine only inhibit the replication of DNA viruses or retroviruses, and the treatment of FCV infections has not entered into clinical practice. Ribavirin is one of the few antiviral drugs capable of inhibiting FCV replication in vitro. However, it appears to be very toxic to cats and side effects have ruled out its systemic use (Povey, 1978; EBM Grade III). It has been shown that cat interferon- γ (licensed to treat parvovirus and cat-related infections of leukemia in some European countries) suppresses the replication of FCV in vitro (Fulton and Búrge, 1985; Mochizuki et al., 1994; Taira et al., 2005; EBM IV). However, there are no controlled field studies. There is some suggestion that strains may vary in their sensitivity to interferon (Ohe et al., 2008). Treatment vs-FCV infection In VS-FCV outbreaks, seriously affected cats have been treated with intensive care therapy (e.g. fluid therapy, antibiotics) plus steroids and interferon, clinical improvement has been reported anecdotally. However, controlled clinical trials have not been published; therefore the specific treatment of this disease is not currently known (Hurley, 2006; Ebm Ebm Treatment of chronic stomatitis Full description of the treatment of chronic stomatitis goes beyond these guidelines. However, several methods have been used to treat chronic ulcerative-ferative stomatitis, although controlled studies are lacking. The recommended options depend on the severity of the disease and stage and include antibiotics plus severe tooth brushing, corticosteroids and/or other immunosuppressants or immunomodulatory drugs (golden salts, clorambucil, thalidomide and cyclosporine; White et al., 1992; Addie et al., 2003; Vercelli et al., 2006; IV class EBM) and complete tooth extraction (Hennet, 1994; EBM Grade III). Anecdotal and clinical case reports have suggested the use of both cat interferon- γ and human interferons to treat cats with chronic stomatitis associated with FCV shedding through intravertebral or combined systemic plus intra-tracheal applications (Sutherland and Gorrol, 2007). Again, controlled studies on the use of this treatment are not currently available. Topical oral interferon has been shown to lead to statistical improvement, in clinical evaluations, but this improvement is no different from cats receiving steroids alone (Hennet et al., 2011; EBM IV). General recommendations on the type of vaccine and the FCV vaccination protocol infection are ubiquitous and can cause severe illness. The ABCD recommends that all healthy cats should be vaccinated against FCV. Although vaccination provides good protection against acute oral and upper respiratory tract diseases in most cases, it does not prevent cats from contracting and shedding FCV afterwards (Radford et al., 2006). In addition, there is currently no vaccine that equally protects against all fcv field strains. Currently, FCV is combined with FHV-1 in divalent vaccines (only in some countries) or, more often, with other antigens. Both modified live and inactivated parenteral vaccines are available. Modified live intranasal vaccines are no longer available in Europe, but are still relevant in the United States. FCV vaccines provide protection mainly by inducing humoral immunity (VN antibodies). Because the virus can mutate rapidly, strains on the ground can develop resistance to any immune response caused by the vaccine, especially if the vaccine is used for a long period of time in the population (Lauritzen et al., 1997). While there are some studies that support this hypothesis (Addie et al., 2008), the evidence of FCV avoiding vaccine-induced immunity at the population level is not conclusive (Porter et al., 2008). Such studies are being carried out to find out more about strains circulating in Europe, and vaccine companies are seeking to identify new strains that wider cross-protection (Poulet et al., 2005). The most commonly used vaccine strains are F9, which is the oldest, isolated in the 1950s, FCV 255, and two new strains of G1 and (Poole et al., 2000; Poulet et al., 2005). Recently, one manufacturer introduced a hypervirulent strain into its vaccine in the United States (Huang et al., 2010), and a Japanese research team developed a triple strain vaccine (Masubuchi et al., 2010); however, at the time of writing (2015) they are not available in Europe. Some vaccine companies will not knead the strain of the virus used in their vaccine. In the absence of conclusive published data, it is difficult to make a general recommendation on which strain of vaccine or strain to use. However, if the disease occurs in fully vaccinated cats that are housed in groups, then switching to another antigen vaccine may offer benefits. The impact of vaccination on the shedding of field viruses is debatable, with some studies showing a moderate reduction (Poulet et al., 2005; Jas et al., 2009), while others show that vaccination may actually prolong the virus spill period after infection (Dawson et al., 1991; Pedersen and Hawkins, 1995). It is possible to shed live parenteral and intranasal strains of the FCV vaccine, although this seems rare (Pedersen and Hawkins, 1995; Radford et al., 1997, 2000, 2001; Coyne et al., 2007; Ruch-Gallie et al., 2011). Vaccines in real time retain some pathogenic potential and can cause diseases when administered correctly, for example, when they are accidentally sprayed or spilled into the skin and enter the body (Dawson et al., 1993; Pedersen and Hawkins, 1995; Radford et al., 1997 and 2000). However, this seems to be a rare event. Cats that have recovered from caliciviral diseases are probably not protected for life from further episodes of disease, especially caused by different strains. Thus, vaccination of recovered, healthy cats is usually recommended, even in situations where FCV is endemic. The importance of serological tests in predicting protection is limited because antibodies to the calicivirus strain used in laboratory tests may not necessarily protect against strains that the cat will subsequently be exposed to in the field. Primary Kitten Vaccination Course: ABCD recommends that all kittens should be vaccinated against FCV. Because MDA can interfere with vaccination response, the primary vaccination course usually starts around the age of about nine weeks, although some vaccines are licensed for use at an earlier age. Kittens should get a second vaccination in two to four weeks, but not earlier than at the age of twelve weeks. This protocol is designed to provide optimal protection. However, due to the longer persistence of MDA, some kittens may not respond to this protocol (Dawson et al., 2001; Grade I EBM). Therefore, in high-risk situations, especially where FCV has been shown to cause disease in vaccinated a third vaccination should be considered within 16 weeks. After the course of primary vaccination kittens all cats receive an additional additional additional dose between the ages of 10 and 16 months: this will provide an adequate vaccination of induced immunity for cats that may not have adequately responded to the main course. We recommend using the same brand for the entire primary vaccination course. Older cats with uncertain FCV vaccination status should also receive two injections at intervals of two to four weeks, and pulse after a year using vaccines containing the same strains of the virus. This applies even if the vaccine contains a modified live virus. The revaccination of the issue of recommended intervals between accelerators is still controversial. However, based on positive results from a study published by several independent groups, the ABCD recommends that boosters should be given at three-year intervals to protect individual cats from field infections of FCV (EBM class II) for cats in low-risk situations, mostly only indoors of cats with little or no contact with others. However, owners should be aware that over time, from the moment the last vaccination increases, the degree of clinical protection decreases. However, cats in overcrowded high-risk situations (such as boarding houses) should be revaccinated after a year. For other cats, an informed decision should be made based on risk and benefit analysis. ABCD recommends one injection if the interval from the last vaccination is no more than three years. If the interval exceeds three years, two vaccinations will provide optimal protection. Accelerators using FCV vaccines from various manufacturers are acceptable. ABCD appreciates that single-component FCV vaccines are currently unavailable. Annual boosters that protect against other antigens can in practice result in more frequent boosters than three years. Disease control in specific situations OF FCV shelters is often a problem in cat shelters. The Office to Limit or Even Prevent Transmission of the Virus is just as important as vaccination control. Housing design and management should be aimed at preventing cross-infection of cats. Cats should be placed individually if they are known to come from the same household. Dogs and cats should be placed separately, and flea control should be implemented to minimize the risk of transmission of FCV and other diseases. If an acute respiratory disease occurs in a shelter, identifying the agent involved (with FCV differentiation from FHV-1, Chlamydia felis, Bordetella bronchiseptica, and Mycoplasma spp.) may be helpful in deciding on appropriate preventive measures. In the case of an FCV outbreak, it should be taken into account that FCV can persist in the environment for approximately one month and is resistant to many common disinfectants. Substances include sodium hypochlorite (5% bleach diluted in 1:32), pexoc-monosulfate potassium, chlorine dioxide and commercial products that have been approved for their virucidal activity. New healthy cats should be vaccinated as soon as Modified live viral vaccines are preferred in shelters because of the earlier onset of protection. Breeding FCV kennels can be a serious problem for cat breeders. The infection most often appears as an upper respiratory tract disease in young kittens, usually around 4-8 weeks as the MDA weakens. The disease in such small kittens can be severe and often includes all kittens in litter; some kittens may die. Vaccination of the queen will not prevent the spill of the virus, but may be helpful in ensuring that kittens benefit from higher levels of MDA through colostrum and milk, providing protection for the first month or so of life. Revaccinations should occur before mating. Vaccination during pregnancy is not recommended. Modified live virus vaccines are not licensed to use in pregnant cats, and if they are considered at all, an inactivated vaccine should be used. The queens need a kitten in isolation, and in order to avoid the risk of exposure to potential carrier cats, litter should not mix with other cats until it has been fully vaccinated. Early vaccination should be considered for litters of queens who have infected litters previously or for whom there is a concern for infection. The earliest age for which FCV vaccines are licensed is six weeks, but vaccination can be considered even earlier in kittens deemed at risk. When MDA levels may be too low for protection, vaccination should be repeated every two weeks until the primary vaccination course is completed in twelve weeks. When all other control strategies have failed, early laundering in isolation from about four weeks of age is an alternative approach to protect kittens from infection from their mothers. Vaccination of immune-weakened cats vaccines cannot generate optimal protection in animals with weakened immune function, such as malnutrition, genetic and acquired, viral immunodeficiency, systemic diseases, simultaneous preparation of immunosuppressive drugs and environmental stress. Efforts should be made to protect cats with weakened immunity from exposure to infectious agents and to correct these conditions prior to vaccination; if this cannot be guaranteed, vaccination should be carried out however and repeated after the animal has fully recovered. Based on safety considerations, ABCD recommends inactivated vaccines in these circumstances. Modified live FCV vaccines should not be used in immunocompromised individuals, as failure to control the replication of the vaccine virus can lead to clinical signs. FIV positive cat vaccination of FIV-infected cats is controversial. Infected FIV cats are able to mount reactions to injected antigens, except for the terminal phase of infection, but also primary immune responses may be delayed or reduced (Dawson et al., 1991; Reubel et al., 1994; Foley et al., 2003; EBM Grade III). FCV vaccination was less in cats shortly after the experimental FIV infection, compared to uninfected cats, and vaccination can increase long-term spillage of FCV (Dawson et al., 1991). Immune stimulation of FIV-infected lymphocytes in vitro promotes FIV replication. In vivo vaccination of chronically infected cats with synthetic peptide was associated with a decrease in CD4/CD8 ratio (Lehmann et al., 1992; Reubel et al., 1994). Thus, potential trade-off to protect against FCV-related diseases is the progression of FIV infection as a result of increased virus production. Thus, only FIV cats with a high risk of exposure to infectious agents who are clinically healthy or in a stable health condition should be vaccinated, and only killed vaccines are used. FeLV-positive FeLV-infected cats should be kept indoors and isolated to avoid exposure to FCV, but also reduce the likelihood of transmitting retrovirus to other cats. Asymptomatic FeLV-infected cats should be vaccinated against FCV. While there is no evidence that FeLV-infected cats are at increased risk of vaccine-induced disease from residual virulence modified live viral vaccines, slain vaccines are preferable. FeLV-infected cats cannot mount adequate immune responses to rabies vaccines and possibly none on other vaccines. Therefore, the protection of FeLV infected cats may not be comparable to the protection of uninfected cats, and consideration should be given to more frequent vaccination. Chronic diseases Exceptions from the general vaccination rule only healthy animals apply to cats with chronic diseases, where vaccination may sometimes be necessary. Manufacturers assess the safety and efficacy of vaccines in healthy animals and, accordingly, vaccines are labeled for use only in healthy animals. However, cats with stable chronic diseases such as kidney disease, diabetes or hyperthyroidism should receive vaccines at the same frequency as healthy cats. In contrast, cats with acute disease, weakening, or high fever should not be vaccinated. In cats with chronic stomatitis and fcv infection, the administration of a modified live FCV vaccine is best avoided (EBM Class IV). Cats receiving corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive drugs in cats with corticosteroid treatment, vaccination should be carefully considered. Depending on the dosage and duration, corticosteroids can cause functional suppression of cellular mediation of the immune response in particular. In dogs, corticosteroids do not prevent effective immunization if given for short periods of time in low to moderate doses (Nara et al., 1979), but the effect of corticosteroids on Vaccines in cats are not known. Therefore, the use of corticosteroids and/or other immunosuppressants during vaccination should be avoided. References Abd-Elidaim M, Potgieter L, Kennedy M (2005): Genetic analysis of feline caliciviruses associated with Disease. J Vet Diagn Invest 17, 420-429. 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