Clinical Trial with Transdermal Amlodipine for Treatment of Feline Hypertension

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Feline Hypertension is increasingly recognized as an important cause of disease in geriatrics cats. Sustained, untreated hypertension causes damage to the brain, heart, kidney and eyes. Several clinical studies have shown that long-term treatment with oral amlodipine has been effective in normalizing blood pressure in cats. However, long term administration of pills to any cat can be problematic. This has sparked great interest in the use of transdermal delivery of drugs in cats. Transdermal delivery of drugs for systemic effect is well documented for several approved drugs used in the veterinary species (invermectin, selamectin, imidacloprid, fenthion, fipronil, nitroglycerin and fentanyl). While no clinical trials have been performed to date, clinical anecdotal evidence is present to support the safe and effective use of transdermal amlodipine for treatment of feline hypertension. Doses from 0.3125mg transdermally daily have been shown to reduce feline blood pressures back into the normal range following treatment. I propose a prospective evaluation of transdermal amlodipine (TDA) vs. oral amlodipine (POA) in cats with hypertension.