High-Dose Cyclosporine in Cats

Cyclosporine is a widely used drug for immunosuppression in feline medicine. As with any potent immunosuppressive, there are concerns about effects on immunocompetence in relation to infectious diseases and vaccination. Rarely, cats on cyclosporine therapy experience severe clinical toxoplasmosis, but evidence suggests this is much more likely with naïve cats first exposed to *Toxoplasma gondii* while on therapy rather than chronically infected cats.\(^1\)

This study also suggests that cyclosporine, even at high doses, may not significantly compromise the ability of cats to respond to booster vaccinations but that immune responses to a novel antigen/vaccine may be compromised. It is reassuring, based on the study results, that cats on cyclosporine therapy are likely to receive clinically relevant protection from booster vaccination. However, it is also suggested that initiating new vaccinations in such cats may not lead to an expected level of protection. Although valuable, this research also only evaluated serological responses and did not explore effects of cyclosporine on either cell-mediated immune responses or on actual challenge with virulent organism.—Andy Sparkes, BVetMed, PhD, DECVIM, MRCVS

Reference


Source


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