



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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MT11-007 - Effectiveness of Small Interfering RNA (siRNA) to Inhibit Feline Coronavirus Replication

This investigation examined the usefulness of small pieces of ribonucleic acid or RNA to inhibit feline coronavirus replication. It is hoped that in combination with immunomodulation, this could prove to be an effective treatment for FIP. The small pieces of RNA actually target the viral genetic material for destruction, leading to decreased virus replication in infected cells. The investigators found that combinations of these RNA particles offered the best knock down of virus replication, with reductions of greater than 90% of the virus' replication in cell culture. The results showed that the siRNA combinations markedly inhibited FCoV genomic RNA, FCoV protein, and FCoV replication in vitro, suggesting a potential therapeutic application of RNA interference in treating FIP. Development of therapeutic agents as siRNA for FIP is a potential new means to combat this highly fatal viral disease.

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