EVALUATING VITAMIN E AS TREATMENT FOR ANEMIA OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

PROJECT STUDY:
Vitamin E as a Novel Treatment for the Anemia of Feline Chronic Renal Failure

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Investigators examined the effects of vitamin E supplementation in cats with chronic kidney disease. Vitamin E is an important antioxidant and may be useful to reduce oxidative stress that occurs during chronic disease.

In this study, the researchers were particularly interested in effects of vitamin E on the anemia that often occurs with chronic kidney disease. Participation in the study as well as compliance with the regimen was excellent. Thirty-six cats received either vitamin E or a placebo over a three-month period. Various clinical parameters for each cat were monitored. Twenty-four cats were able to complete the study, and no significant difference in clinical disease was found between the two groups. Thus administration of vitamin E did not appear to affect the clinical presentation, degree of oxidative stress, or level of anemia in cats with chronic kidney disease.

Additional studies may shed light on the need for antioxidant therapy in cats with chronic disease.

Summary prepared by Melissa A. Kennedy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM © 2014