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Can deslorelin be a clinical alternative to treat urinary marking in castrated tom cats?
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One of the recommendations to castrate male cats is eliminating the undesirable behavior of urinary marking. However, since this behavior has a learning component, it is not always eliminated after surgery. The use of imipramine maybe useful in some cases, but in others no improvement is observed. Since high levels of gonadotropins may participate in the urinary incontinence after spaying in the bitch [1], it is possible to have the same effect in the male cat. Therefore, the use of deslorelin implant may reduce the urinary marking after castration. Three castrated male cats with urinary marking behavior were treated with deslorelin. During this trial, 3 male castrated cats were followed. An 8 year old Maine Coon has been urinating in the house for years. Several possible causes have been ruled out. No effect was observed for 56 days post-implantation on the urinary marking although the cat gained weight, increased appetite for one month and became more aggressive during the 2 months after implantation. A 2 year old Bengal did have some struvite calculi in his urine. This was managed with dietary changes, but the cat kept on urinating in the house. Pheromone (Feliway®, CEVA) treatment did not work. The first two weeks after implantation, no change was noticed, but at one month post-deslorelin, the animal was more quiet, easier, did not fight anymore and has stopped urinating. The cat has started urinating again around 11 months post-implantation. At this time, the Bengal was given imipramine but the owner stopped this treatment due to some side effect. A Persian cat of 10 years old kept on urinating in the house despite of imipramine. Other potential causes have been ruled out. No difference was noticed 2 months post-implantation neither in behaviour, nor in urinary marking. Deslorelin implant improved the urinary marking only in one cat. The duration of action corresponds to published data for other indications [2]. In the other two cats, no effect was observed. Since the small number of animals, it is hard to make any general conclusion. Deslorelin might not treat the problem but might contribute to the management of urine marking in some castrated male cats. Any undesirable effect of the implant can be resolved by removal if it was placed in the post-umbilical area.