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The efficacy of aglepristone-cabergoline combination on termination of midterm pregnancies in cats: preliminary clinical results
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Different hormones and their combinations can be used depending on the term of conception for the termination of unwanted pregnancies in domestic cats. The widely accepted theory about the continuity of pregnancy in cats is its main dependence on progestin, which relies on prolactin on the second half of pregnancy. Aglepristone (AGL)\(^1\), cabergoline (CBG), PGF\(_2\alpha\) and their combinations\(^2,3\) were used to terminate unwanted pregnancies in cats. However, common protocols are not always efficient. To the best of our knowledge, there is no report in veterinary literature about P\(_4\) receptor antagonists combined with dopamine agonists. In this study, the aim was to determine the efficacy of a combination of aglepristone and cabergoline on termination of midterm cat pregnancies. Eleven cats with unwanted pregnancies were used in this study. Pregnancy days were determined by measurement of internal dimension of each gestational sac, foetal occipital-sacral length, foetal parietal diameter and thoracic diameter with ultrasound, and the ones between 30-40 days were included in the study and randomly assigned to three groups. Aglepristone (10 mg/kg, sc, Alizin\(^®\), Virbac) was given to the AGL group (n=4) twice in a 24 hours interval. Cabergoline (5 μg/kg, po, Galastop\(^®\), Ceva) was administered to the CBG group (n=4) once daily until abortion started. The last group, AGL+CBG (n=3) received a combined treatment of both drugs as the others. The animals were clinically and ultrasonographically examined at a 12 hours interval, from the first administration of drugs. Initiation of abortion was marked with the start of vaginal discharge and no longer seeing any foetal structures in ultrasonographic evaluation marked the completion of abortion. Abortion was induced in 75% (3/4) cats in the AGL and CBG groups. In the AGL+CBG group the abortion was initiated in all cats (100%, 3/3). However the completion rate was 66.66% (2/3) because of the retention of two dead foetuses in one cat for 24 hours. The mean interval time from start of treatment to initiation of abortion for groups AGL, CBG, ABL+CBG were 6.5±0.0, 5.8±2.5 and 4.0±0.8 days, respectively. The mean interval time from start of treatment to completion of abortion was determined as 7.3±0.5, 6.3±2.5 and 4.5±0.7 days, in the same order. The mean interval time between abortions start and end were 0.8±0.5, 0.5±0.0 and 1.0±0.7 days, respectively. No side effects were seen at examinations in any animal. It can be speculated the preliminary data gathered from this study shows that the combination of AGL+CBG may be better at inducing abortion in cats rather than their single uses.