

Vetmedin

Stage B2 CDVD

EPIC INDEED

Fresh from ACVIM 2016, the data for the EPIC Study is finally available. And yes, the data is compelling. Vetmedin (pimobendan), when used in stage B2 chronic degenerative valve disease (also referred to as myxomatous mitral valve disease = MMVD) in dogs, significantly delays the onset to clinical signs associated with left sided congestive heart failure. Stage B2 CDVD is defined by patients with increased left heart size, but no clinical signs.

What is EPIC?

The EPIC trial is the largest clinical study ever to be conducted amongst dogs with MMVD. EPIC stands for Evaluating Pimobendan In Cardiomegaly, and was an international, multi-centre clinical study to determine whether chronic oral administration of pimobendan in dogs with evidence of increased heart size (stage B2) can delay the onset of clinical signs of congestive heart failure (CHF).

What was the objective of the study?

To determine whether chronic oral administration of pimobendan in dogs with evidence of increased heart size secondary to preclinical myxomatous mitral valve disease (stage B2) can delay the onset of signs of congestive heart failure (CHF).

The FAQs

- * 360 dogs entered into the study, 38 authors on the paper
- * 5 year study (2010 to 2015)
- * dogs were confirmed to have stage B2 CDVD by echocardiogram
- * dogs had never been in heart failure before
- * dogs with pulmonary hypertension (RA:RV gradient > 65 mmHg) excluded

RESULTS

- * 50% prolongation to clinical signs associated with heart failure
- * ~ 1200 days on average to clinical signs of heart failure vs ~ 800 days on average in placebo dogs
- * **OVER 1 YEAR DIFFERENCE** in treated vs placebo dogs

Based on this study what is recommended for dogs with suspected CDVD?

If a heart murmur is heard and CDVD is suspected, even if there are no clinical signs:

- * Baseline work-up includes 3 view chest radiographs and an echocardiogram
- * If confirmed to have stage B2 CDVD, start pimobendan therapy
- * If patient is still in stage B1 CDVD (normal heart size) re-evaluate in 6 to 12 months

For more information about the EPIC study visit: <https://www.epictrial.com/epic-trial/faqs/#whatisepic>