

Title:

A comparison of fresh platelet concentrates vs. lyophilized platelets to stop bleeding in dogs with hemorrhage secondary to thrombocytopenia of any cause.

Investigators:

Ben Brainard, VMD, DACVECC, DACVA (emergency/critical care faculty) – brainard@uga.edu

Amie Koenig, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC (emergency/critical care faculty) – akoenig@uga.edu

Study description:

Dogs must meet the following criteria: platelet count < 60 K, normal coagulation times, evidence of bleeding (can be as mild as petechiae, or more severe (melena, neurologic symptoms). We need to document the bleeding with a photograph, and then dogs will receive either the lyophilized platelet product, or the concentrate (current human standard of care). The study will pay for the product, and an additional 2 CBC (immediately after transfusion, and next morning), 2 coagulation screens (before and after), and 3 TEG analyses. The remainder of the bill is paid by the client. We receive new platelet concentrate weekly, although each unit is good for 10 days. When new product arrives, we can use the older units for compassionate use for any case in the hospital who needs platelets (e.g. extensive surgical or postoperative bleeding, stabilization prior to biopsy, etc.)

Duration of study:

The study will continue until we have enrolled 20 dogs.

Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:

The lyophilized platelets have a shelf life of 2 years, and consequently, if they work as well as the concentrate, may revolutionize the therapy of thrombocytopenias in both referral and local practice conditions.