American Holistic Veterinary Medical Foundation

6 Month Progress Report

Name of project: ***Effects of acupuncture on chemotherapy-induced myelosuppression and gastrointestinal toxicity in dogs with lymphoma.***

Date of report: ***July 2014***

Principal investigator: ***Kendra V. Pope, DVM, CVA***

Briefly describe progress made towards your objectives. If no progress has been made, please explain. If original procedures have been changed or modified, please describe.

***As of July 2014, a total of 12 patients have been enrolled into our trial. Of these 12 patients, four have completed the CHOP protocol and all study-related visits and treatments. Four patients were withdrawn from the study due to interruption of CHOP treatment protocol, either because they did not tolerate the chemotherapy or because their disease progressed during treatment. Four patients are currently receiving the CHOP protocol and are still on-study.***

Itemized expenditures:

***Acupuncture needles: $56.61***

***Recruitment materials $87.27***

***Clinical Nursing Support $6,952.00***

Lay language update: This part of the report may be shared with Foundation donors.  
1. Summarize the aims of your research. What are you hoping to prove or accomplish? How far have you progressed?

***The purpose of this study is to document the effects of acupuncture on reducing or alleviating the side effects of chemotherapy in canine patients with multicentric lymphoma who are undergoing standard of care CHOP chemotherapy protocol. We are specifically looking at the incidence of GI-related toxicities as well as bone marrow suppression in dogs receiving acupuncture treatments versus those undergoing the same chemotherapy without acupuncture.***

2. Have you had any “successes” or preliminary results to report? Any “aha!” moments?

***Preliminary results are pending further enrollment.***

3. Have you encountered any problems so far? How did you fix them?

***Several patients have been unable to complete all study-related visits due to discontinuation of their standard of care chemotherapy protocol. Reasons for discontinuing the CHOP protocol (and therefore the study) are progression of lymphoma while being treated, and concurrent illness which made another patient ineligible to continue standard chemotherapy.***

4. How will your project help our donors and their pets?

***Our hope is that this research project will demonstrate a benefit to the use of acupuncture in patients receiving chemotherapy. Once demonstrated, these services can be more readily recommended and provided to other pets with cancer undergoing traditional treatment. These benefits to pets with cancer undergoing treatment can also be applied to human patients receiving similar treatments.***

5. What are you planning for the next 6 months?

***During the next 6 months, we will continue to enroll patients into the trial so that more data can be collected and compared within a larger population of patients. Our target enrollment is 80 dogs. The more data we can collect, the more information we can gather from this clinical trial.***

Is there anything we need to know at this time concerning your progress, changes in protocol, personnel changes, or timeline change?

***A second Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist, Dr. Sandy Perkowski, was added to the IACUC protocol and was performing the acupuncture treatments on a few of the participating patients while the principal investigator was off clinic studying for board exams. Dr. Perkowski will be utilized as needed in the future should the PI be unavailable for acupuncture treatments on enrolled patients.***