Background Information

Spinal cord injuries affect between 200,000 and 1,000,000 people in America and are also extremely common in dogs. Injured dogs may develop permanent weakness, urinary incontinence, and pain. While standard treatments such as decompressive surgery and rehabilitation may be effective in some cases, new approaches are needed to improve recovery. In 2011 veterinarians from Texas A&M University partnered with medical doctors and scientists from the University of California-San Francisco Medical School to develop treatments for spinal cord injuries. The United States Department of Defense provided funding to support this team-based research effort in the hope that results would positively impact our troops and our dogs.

Contact Information

Those with inquires
are encouraged to contact:

Texas A&M University
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& Biomedical Sciences
Department of Small Animal
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979-845-2351

The Influence of an Experimental Compound (GM-6001) on Recovery from Disk Herniation

VETERINARY MEDICINE
& BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Common Questions

Which dogs are eligible to participate?

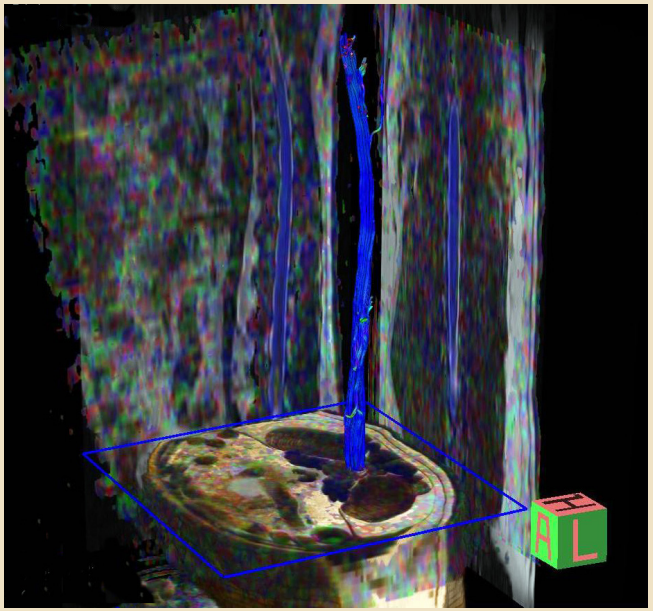
- Male dogs or male castrated dogs weighing between 5 and 15 kg that are non-ambulatory
- dogs must also have a disk-related spinal cord injury between the T3–L3 vertebrae
- the injury must have occurred less than 48 hours before admission to Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine
- the dog must be an appropriate candidate for surgery
- dogs that received steroid drugs (eg, prednisone, Solumedrol®, dexamethasone) **cannot participate** as these medications interfere with the study drug

What procedures will be performed?

The client consent form provides procedural details. Briefly, dogs will have an injection of placebo or drug under the skin. They will have a blood draw prior to the administration of drug and 3 days afterwards. All dogs will be required to have sedation prior to surgery and 3, 7, and 42 days following surgery so that urinary voiding can be studied using procedures that are commonly performed in humans with spinal cord injury.

Study Goals

Work being performed at Texas A&M assess the effect of a drug that blocks destructive enzymes that can further damage the spinal cord after disk-related injury. The drug has been used in mice, dogs, and humans with few ill effects. All eligible dogs enrolled in the study will receive standard medical treatment (surgery, pain management, and rehabilitation) and will be randomized to receive either placebo or the drug. Dogs will have to stay at our facility for 7 days and return for 42 day post-surgery re-check.



What does the study pay for?

Clients permitting enrollment of their dogs will have their bill capped at $1200, assuming a 7 day stay and no major complications. This bill will be for all standard services (examination, vertebral imaging, blood work, surgery, ICU stay, and rehabilitation) as well as study related procedures. Normally, standard clinical services for disk herniation cost $3500. If for some reason a dog proves not to be eligible after enrollment (eg, MRI shows injury was due to inflammation or tumor), additional treatments may be elected by the client on a fee-for-service basis.