

NEW CANCER TREATMENT AVAILABLE FOR DOGS WITH LYMPHOMA

PharmAust Limited is pleased to announce that its new clinical trial in partnership with U-Vet Werribee Animal Hospital is currently recruiting. The trial will evaluate the drug monepantel, which has shown promising anti-cancer results *in vitro*, in mice and in previous preliminary investigations in dogs with lymphoma as well as in a Phase I study in humans with cancer.

PharmAust previously demonstrated that six of seven dogs with treatment-naïve B cell lymphoma achieved stable disease, or progression free survival, with reductions in tumour size following 14 consecutive days of gelatin encapsulated liquid monepantel treatment. PharmAust is now repeating and extending this study with the newly developed high dose and highly palatable GMP monepantel tablet formulation.

Previous safety studies in dogs have shown the drug is extremely well tolerated even over very long periods of daily administration (tested up to 52 weeks to date). The trial has been approved by the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Science's Animal Ethics Committee in Melbourne, as well as the New South Wales Department of Primary Industry's Animal Care and Ethics Committee in Sydney.

The trial will test the safety and efficacy of monepantel in dogs with B cell lymphoma that have had no previous treatment for their cancer, including corticosteroid anti-inflammatories (e.g. prednisolone). Because conventional therapies are short lived and relapse occurs within the first six to 12 months, an option for longer maintenance monepantel treatment aiming to prevent relapse will be offered if pet owners and veterinarians are agreeable. Dogs must have normal organ function and be overall feeling well to qualify for admission to the trial.

Once enrolled, dogs will receive baseline staging tests and then be treated with the drug by mouth daily by their owners at home, and will return to approved vet centres in Melbourne, Sydney & Perth for rechecks to evaluate safety and efficacy. Tumour size will be measured before and after treatment using callipers and imaging tests (e.g. CT scan, abdominal ultrasound, x-rays).

Pet owners are responsible for the cost of tests to determine if their dog has lymphoma (these are all tests that would be done in the normal course of diagnosing and staging cancer) and for the initial appointment with the U-Vet oncology service. All options for treatment are discussed with each pet owner, and if eligible, dogs can be included in the clinical trial. The study will pay for:

- any additional pre-treatment tests required to set the baseline for evaluation
- the medication
- 2-week and 4-week re-evaluation visits
- treatment for adverse events that are considered probably side effects of the drug (if the dog develops a separate problem during the course of treatment this will not be covered).

If you wish to refer a case for the trial, please enquire as follows:

- Melbourne - email vet-sa-medicine@unimelb.edu.au or call (03) 9731 2054
- Sydney – email arh@arhvets.com or call (02) 9758 8666
- Perth - email referral@wavets.com.au or call (08) 9412 5700



"PharmAust is harnessing drugs targeting novel mechanisms to control cancer"