



# BestBETs for Vets

Supporting veterinary clinicians in making evidence-based decisions



The University of  
**Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

## Clopidogrel versus clopidogrel plus aspirin in feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

### Clinical Scenario

An apparently healthy cat has a heart murmur detected at vaccination yet no other abnormalities are found on clinical exam. The owner opts for further investigation and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is confirmed after performing ultrasound of the heart. The owner has read up on the condition and is worried about the risk of clot formation as these cats have a higher risk of arterial thromboembolism.

You have seen clopidogrel used frequently as an antithrombotic agent but have heard some specialists advise the use of both clopidogrel and aspirin together for cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. You wonder if there is any benefit to using both instead of just clopidogrel for increasing longevity...

### 3-Part Question (PICO)

In [cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy] does [clopidogrel versus clopidogrel plus aspirin] [increase survival time]?

### Search Strategy

#### MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present using the OVID interface

(cat.mp. OR cats.mp. OR feline.mp. OR felines.mp. OR felis.mp. OR exp Cats/)

#### AND

(cardiomyopathy.mp. OR cardiomyopathies.mp. OR cardio myopathy.mp. OR cardio myopathies.mp. OR hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.mp. OR HCM.mp. OR exp Cardiomyopathies/ OR exp Cardiomyopathy, Hypertrophic/)

#### AND

(clopidogrel.mp. OR Plavix.mp. OR anti-platelet.mp. OR antiplatelet.mp. OR anti-platelets.mp. OR antiplatelets.mp. OR anti-thrombotic.mp. OR antithrombotic.mp. OR anti-thrombotics.mp. OR antithrombotics.mp. OR platelet aggregation inhibitor.mp. OR platelet aggregation inhibitors.mp. OR anticoagulant.mp. OR anticoagulants.mp. OR anti-coagulant.mp. OR anti-coagulants.mp. OR aspirin.mp. OR acetylsalicylic acid.mp. OR ASA.mp. OR exp Clopidogrel/ OR exp Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors/ OR exp

Anticoagulants/ OR exp Aspirin/)

## CAB Abstracts 1910 to Present using the OVID interface

(cat.mp. OR cats.mp. OR feline.mp. OR felines.mp. OR felis.mp. OR exp cats/)

### AND

(cardiomyopathy.mp. OR cardiomyopathies.mp. OR cardio myopathy.mp. OR cardio myopathies.mp. OR hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.mp. OR HCM.mp. OR exp cardiomyopathy/)

### AND

(clopidogrel.mp. OR Plavix.mp. OR anti-platelet.mp. OR antiplatelet.mp. OR anti-platelets.mp. OR antiplatelets.mp. OR anti-thrombotic.mp. OR antithrombotic.mp. OR anti-thrombotics.mp. OR antithrombotics.mp. OR platelet aggregation inhibitor.mp. OR platelet aggregation inhibitors.mp. OR anticoagulant.mp. OR anticoagulants.mp. OR anti-coagulant.mp. OR anti-coagulants.mp. OR aspirin.mp. OR acetylsalicylic acid.mp. OR ASA.mp. OR exp anticoagulants/ OR exp aspirin/)

## Search Outcome

### MEDLINE

- 41 papers found in MEDLINE search
- 39 papers excluded as they don't meet the PICO question
- 0 papers excluded as they are in a non-English language
- 2 papers excluded as they are review articles/in vitro research/conference proceedings
- 0 total relevant papers from MEDLINE

### CAB Abstracts

- 52 papers found in CAB search
- 50 papers excluded as they don't meet the PICO question
- 0 papers excluded as they are in a non-English language
- 2 papers excluded as they are review articles/in vitro research/conference proceedings
- 0 total relevant papers from CAB

### Total relevant papers

0 relevant papers from both MEDLINE and CAB Abstracts

## Summary of Evidence

No Summary of Evidence yet.

## Comments

There is no primary literature addressing the treatment comparison between the use of clopidogrel versus clopidogrel and aspirin in cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

There have been consensus studies conducted assessing the use of antithrombotics in veterinary critical care which may provide additional information for practitioners (Blais et al. 2019), although the one mentioned here has not been critically appraised as part of the process of conducting this BestBET.

Other resources such as textbooks, expert opinion, narrative reviews and websites can be useful when peer-

reviewed evidence is scarce. However, there needs to be an appreciation of the limitations of using these evidence sources in decision-making.

## Bottom line

**There was no peer-reviewed evidence found to determine whether using clopidogrel alone versus clopidogrel and aspirin in cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy results in longer survival times.**

**Therefore, the choice of treatment approach should be based on veterinarian preference, discussion of the risks and benefits with the client and individual practice guidelines, if they are available.**

### Disclaimer

The BETs on this website are a summary of the evidence found on a topic and are not clinical guidelines. It is the responsibility of the individual veterinary surgeon to ensure appropriate decisions are made based on the specific circumstances of patients under their care, taking into account other factors such as local licensing regulations. **Read small print (/disclaimer)**

## References

Blais, M-C, Bianco, D, Goggs, R, Lynch, AM, Palmer, L, Ralph, A, Sharp, CR, (2019). Consensus on the Rational Use of Antithrombotics in Veterinary Critical Care (CURATIVE): Domain 3—Defining antithrombotic protocols. *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care* **29**: 60-74, <https://doi.org/10.1111/vec.12795>

### About this BET

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