RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL TO REDUCE HIGHEST PRIORITY CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIMICROBIAL PRESCRIPTION IN COMPANION ANIMALS

In March 2019, LIG and HIG practices were identified by SAVSNET were notified of their above average status, and provided with online (LIG) or in-person (HIG) educational materials and support; the CG received no intervention.

Over the eight months following intervention, HIG practices were associated with a significant 23.5% and 39.0% reduction in canine and feline HPCIAs prescription frequency, respectively, compared to the CG. LIG practices were associated with a 16.7% significant reduction in feline HPCIA prescription frequency (as shown). This trial demonstrated the potential of benchmarking and education to reduce HPCIA prescription. Work is now ongoing to determine how such interventions might be efficiently scaled up to encompass a wider range of veterinary practices.

Randomised controlled trial including 60 practices owned by CVS Group Limited who have been identified by SAVSNET as relatively frequent HPCIA prescribers within the group between August 2018 and January 2019. Practices evenly split into three groups: control group (CG), light intervention group (LIG), and heavy intervention group (HIG).

Highest priority critically important antimicrobials (HPCIAs) are frequently prescribed to companion animals, despite recommendations this group of antimicrobials should be largely reserved for human use. Little evidence exists to suggest effective ways by which veterinary surgeons can target their use of HPCIAs in companion animals more effectively.

“CVS is proud that collaboration with SAVSNET has led to a quality improvement framework supporting responsible use of antimicrobials in small animal practice. We thank all the CVS practices that took part in the study for their contribution, that produced such excellent results” Angie Rayner BVM&S PgDipPSHCF MRCVS Director of Quality Improvement, CVS (UK) Ltd.

Full paper published in the Nature Communications available here.