

New research presented at the ACVIM Forum/CVMA Convention confirms the Spec cPL[®] Test and the Spec fPL[®] Test are accurate screening tests for canine and feline pancreatitis

As the leader in pet health-care innovation, IDEXX Laboratories continues to support research to better understand the clinical utility of the Spec cPL (canine pancreas-specific lipase) and Spec fPL (feline pancreas-specific lipase) tests in diagnosing pancreatitis in dogs and cats respectively. IDEXX supported the following two studies presented at the ACVIM Forum/CVMA Convention in Montreal, Canada, in June 2009.

A multi-institutional study evaluating diagnostic utility of the Spec cPL test in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis in dogs¹

Fourteen members of the Comparative Gastroenterology Society from different institutions participated in collecting patient data for the study. Eighty-four dogs were entered into the study.

Purpose: To investigate the performance of the Spec cPL test in dogs with a clinical diagnosis of acute pancreatitis.

Study design: Twenty-seven dogs were enrolled as control cases and acute pancreatitis was suspected in 57 dogs. Clinical, laboratory and ultrasound information for each dog was reviewed by a panel of four board-certified internists blinded to the Spec cPL result. Based upon their evaluation, dogs were categorized into one of five predefined groups as to the likelihood that the dog had pancreatitis.

Results: Using the current cut off values of <200 µg/L as normal and >400 µg/L as consistent with pancreatitis, the sensitivity of the Spec cPL Test for the diagnosis of pancreatitis was 93% and the specificity for ruling out pancreatitis was 78% in this group of dogs. Amylase and lipase were not found to be helpful in diagnosing acute pancreatitis in this study.

Conclusion:

The results of these studies demonstrate that the Spec cPL and Spec fPL tests are valuable screening tests for canine and feline pancreatitis respectively.

Expert feedback when you need it

Our team of internal medicine specialists is always available for complimentary consultation. Please call 1-888-433-9987, option 4, option 2, if you have questions.

For more information

To learn more about using Spec cPL and Spec fPL tests in your practice, visit idexx.com.

CE-approved courses are available

Courses about canine and feline pancreatitis are available at idexxlearningcenter.com.

References

1. McCord K, Davis J, Leyva F, Armstrong PJ, Simpson KW, Rishniw M, Forman MA, Biller DS, Comparative Gastroenterology Society Members, Twedt D. A multi-institutional study evaluating diagnostic utility of Spec cPL[®] in the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis in dogs [ACVIM abstract 166]. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2009;23:734.
2. Forman MA, Shiroma JT, Armstrong PJ, Simpson KW, Robertson JE, Buch J. Evaluation of feline pancreas-specific lipase (Spec fPL[®]) for the diagnosis of feline pancreatitis [ACVIM abstract 165]. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2009;23:733–734.