



510 E. 62nd Street, New York, NY 10065 | Phone: 212.838.8100 | Appointments: 212.838.7053

Pearls for the Practitioner

Topic: Veterinary Oncology

You are receiving this e-mail because you expressed an interest in the topic of Oncology in a recent survey we mailed to you. If you are interested in obtaining information about other "Pearls for the Practitioner" in other specialty areas please contact Lynne at (212) 329-8754 so that she may add you to those e-mail lists.

At The Animal Medical Center, specialists certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the sub-specialty of Oncology and the American College of Veterinary Radiology in the sub-specialty of Radiation Oncology provide dedicated care for pets with cancer Monday through Saturday. We take a team approach to cancer care, collaborating with specialists in the fields of diagnostic imaging, pathology, surgery and internal medicine to create a customized plan for the care of the pets you refer to us. We have created this e-mail publication to keep you informed about the latest practices in veterinary oncology and radiation oncology and how they are being applied at The AMC.

You can reach The AMC Oncology staff by e-mail or phone:

- [Ann Hohenhaus, DVM, DACVIM \(Oncology, Small Animal Internal Medicine\)](#)

Ann.Hohenhaus@amcny.org (212) 329-8612

- [Nicole Leibman, DVM, DACVIM \(Oncology\)](#)

Nicole.Leibman@amcny.org (212) 329-8696

- [John Farrelly, DVM, DACVR \(Radiation Oncology\), DACVIM \(Oncology\)](#)

John.Farrelly@amcny.org (212) 329-8794

- [Andrea Flory, DVM, DACVIM \(Oncology\)](#)

Andrea.Flory@amcny.org (212) 329-8687

**TO REFER AN EMERGENCY PATIENT, PLEASE CALL:
THE AMC EMERGENCY HOTLINE (212) 329-8616.**

This line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for doctors only.

To refer a case to The AMC, please call The AMC Referral Office at: (212) 329-8890.

**Abstracted for you by the Staff of The AMC's Donaldson-Atwood
Cancer Clinic from the Veterinary Cancer Society Annual Meeting 2008**

Until now, **CCNU (Lomustine) associated hepatotoxicity** with has been poorly characterized. In a study presented at VCS, over 150 dogs receiving CCNU were studied. Most cases of hepatotoxicity occurred after 1-3 doses of the drug and most dogs recovered if the CCNU was discontinued when elevations in ALT were discovered. Young dogs and boxers were most likely to develop hepatotoxicity. **The AMC's Oncology Staff recommends monitoring liver enzymes prior to each treatment with CCNU.**

Ongoing studies continue to confirm the safety and efficacy of the **DNA melanoma vaccine** developed as a joint effort between The Animal Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. **Dr. Christina Manley** and her advisor, **Dr. Nicole Leibman of the The AMC's Donaldson-Atwood Cancer Clinic**, reported on 2 groups of dogs treated with the vaccine. Dogs with digit melanoma that had metastasized survived a median of 105 days and dogs with digit melanoma that had not metastasized survived a median of 533 days. **Because The AMC was involved with the melanoma vaccine from its inception, we are happy to discuss the use of the vaccine in any melanoma patient.**

Response to treatment is difficult to monitor in dogs with bladder tumors. In a study presented at VCS, the use of **cystosonography**, a non-invasive method of assessing response to treatment was studied. The volume of saline used to distend the bladder affected cystosonographic measurements. There was also significant inter- and intra-operator variation in tumor size making cystosonography less useful in monitoring tumor response to treatment. **The AMC's Oncology Staff recommends using caution when interpreting the results of cystosonography in dogs with bladder tumors.**

Also presented at VCS were the results of a multi-center study headed by **Dr. Andrea Flory of The AMC's Donaldson-Atwood Cancer Clinic**. Dr. Flory's group reviewed the treatment of dogs with relapsed lymphoma and conclude that 87% of dogs treated with the 6 month Madison Wisconsin protocol who achieve a complete remission on the protocol and have been off of chemotherapy for >60 days will attain a second complete remission. Median second remission of these dogs is 182 days.

Dermal hemangiosarcoma appears to have a prolonged survival after surgical excision compared to hemangiosarcoma affecting other locations. Dogs with dermal hemangiosarcoma had an overall median survival of 1404 days and 91% of dogs survived 1 year following surgical excision. Whippets, pit bulls and Staffordshire bull terriers were the most common breeds affected with this tumor. **A diagnosis of subcutaneous hemangiosarcoma carries a much greater risk of recurrence. The AMC's oncology staff would be happy to consult on dermal hemangiosarcoma or any other cancer case you need assistance with.**