COBALAMIN DEFICIENCY IN DOGS & CATS

Cobalamin Deficiency

- Cobalamin deficiency alone can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, but this deficiency is most often a comorbidity with other gastrointestinal diseases.
- Cobalamin deficiency may exacerbate the symptoms of gastrointestinal disease.
- Patients with cobalamin deficiency may not respond to the treatment of an underlying gastrointestinal disease unless cobalamin supplementation is implemented.
- Cobalamin deficient dogs and cats usually show clinical signs only of GI disease, which may be the cause or the effect of cobalamin deficiency. Signs can include:
  - Weight loss
  - Central neuropathies
  - Peripheral neuropathies
  - Immunodeficiencies

Potential Candidates For Cobalamin Supplementation

Common causes of cobalamin deficiency:
- Chronic and severe small intestinal disease
- Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)
  - As many as 82% of dogs with EPI may be cobalamin deficient
- Most cats with EPI are cobalamin deficient
- Hyperthyroidism in cats
- Hepatic lipidosis in cats
- Chronic renal failure in cats

Less common causes include:
- Short-bowel syndrome
- An exclusively vegetarian or vegan diet
- Hereditary cobalamin deficiency
- Diabetes
- Hypothyroidism in dogs

Cobalamin Concentration Testing

For a sick animal, blood serum cobalamin concentrations appear to decrease more slowly than cellular levels, which are more clinically significant. Thus, cobalamin supplementation should be considered even when serum cobalamin concentration is “low-normal.”

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Educational Information

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL

Product Manager
Marketing
Business Unit Director
Science Manager
Regulatory Supervisor

FINAL APPROVAL

Packaging Engineer
Science VP
Regulatory Director
Legal GC
CEO/President
Graphic Designer