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Dear Veterinarian,

Please find below canine epilepsy advisory group advice for the transition of dogs from Phenobarbital to PEXION®.

Unless life threatening phenobarbital side effects are being experienced, or the dog has been on phenobarbital for less than 14 days, it is advisable to wean patients off phenobarbital as detailed below.

Gradual transition is preferable and should be instituted as follows:

- Start PEXION at 10 to 20 mg/kg twice daily.
- If on phenobarbital for less than 14 days → discontinue phenobarbital.
- If on phenobarbital for greater than 14 days → wean off as follows noting rate of dose adjustment may be modified based on clinical status of the patient.
 - Month 1 → 75% of original phenobarbital dose.
 - Month 2 → 50% of original phenobarbital dose.
 - Month 3 → 25% of original phenobarbital dose.
 - Month 4 → Discontinue phenobarbital.

In cases where immediate transition to PEXION® is required proceed as follows:

- Start PEXION at 20 to 30 mg/kg twice daily.
- Stop phenobarbital.
- 3 – 6 months after phenobarbital is discontinued, the PEXION dose can be titrated down to 10 – 20 mg / kg twice daily if seizure control is good depending on initial seizure frequency.
- If seizure control deteriorates on PEXION monotherapy, consider additional medication.

PEXION® dose adjustment advice:

- Seizure control is adequate → continue current dose.
- Seizure control is inadequate → consider increasing dose 50% - 100% to a maximum of 30 mg/kg if:
 - Seizure frequency is not reduced by at least 50% or,
 - Seizure frequency is more than 1 per six weeks or,
 - There has been no reduction in seizure severity.
- If seizure control deteriorates on PEXION monotherapy, consider additional medication.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Carl Eden

Technical Services Veterinarian
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