

An evidence-based, antibiotic-sparing approach to canine idiopathic acute diarrhea



Perception

75% of veterinarians report use of antimicrobials as either “effective” or “very effective” in managing idiopathic diarrhea¹

VS.



REALITY

Dietary modification alone commonly resolves acute, idiopathic diarrhea faster than in combination with metronidazole and should serve as the first-line management strategy²



Metronidazole is unnecessary in non-infectious acute diarrhea and may be detrimental to patients

- Metronidazole use depletes key bacterial species that produce short-chain fatty acids critical to gut health.³
- Metronidazole-induced dysbiosis may not fully resolve even 4 weeks past discontinuation of antibiotic therapy.^{2, 3}
- Microbiome alterations association with administration of metronidazole mirror features of dysbiosis seen in chronic enteropathy patients, raising concern over potential long-term health implications.³



When should I consider antibiotics for acute diarrhea cases?⁴

- Diagnosed infectious causes of acute diarrhea where metronidazole is approved for treatment
- Signs of severe infection indicating SIRS, such as fever, leukopenia, leukocytosis with a left shift (bands), hypoglycemia, and/or persistent hypotension
- Patients that are immunocompromised (such as those receiving chemotherapy)
- Patients not responding to fluid therapy and supportive care after multiple days

What are my management options for acute idiopathic diarrhea if I'm not using antibiotics?

- Highly digestible nutrition⁷
- Nutrition enhanced with prebiotic fiber sources²
- Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) given by enema is a minimally invasive, adjunctive microbial-directed management strategy shown to demonstrate superior resolution of clinical signs compared to metronidazole^{5, 6}

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