Background

- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in dogs often involves lifelong steroid therapy. Fat derived mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) inhibit lymphocyte proliferation, regulate immune responses and facilitate tissue regrowth. We are initiating a study to determine if MSCs can decrease the abnormal immune response and inflammation in dogs with IBD and result in disease remission. The purpose of this study is to investigate the efficacy of a new stem cell therapy for canine IBD and better understand how stem cells work to limit inflammation and repair gut tissue. This study is a collaborative effort between our Gastroenterology and Regenerative Medicine groups, respectively led by Drs. Stan Marks and Dori Borjesson, and Vista Veterinary Specialists.

Participation Requirements

- Adult dogs with chronic, idiopathic diarrhea (> three weeks) that have failed dietary management (4-6 weeks) and a trial of empiric antimicrobial therapy.
- Dogs should be free of corticosteroids and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for at least three (3) weeks.
- Dogs can be seen either at UCD Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) or the Vista Veterinary Specialists in Sacramento, California.

Procedures

- Multiple visits for physical examinations and blood collections
- Two intravenous (IV) injections of placebo or stem cells, two (2) weeks apart
- Two procedures to collect intestinal tissue biopsies under general anesthesia (prior to and after stem cell therapy)

Owner Responsibilities

- Your client will need to bring their dog in at the requested appointments and re-evaluations, which may be weekly prior to and immediately following stem cell injection.

Benefits

- The owner will pay for the cost of the routine work up to determine if the patient is eligible for enrollment. After enrollment, the study covers the cost of stem cell isolation and injection as well as all other procedures including tissue collection and blood draws.
- Participation in this clinical trial could lead to remission of the dog’s IBD without the use of steroid therapy.
- Results from this study may help other dogs or even people suffering from IBD in the future.