

A systematic review of rescue protocols for canine lymphoma

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Many publications describe rescue protocols for canine lymphoma which has relapsed or failed to respond to initial chemotherapy treatment. However, the most effective rescue protocol for dogs with lymphoma is undefined. The aim of this systematic review was to assess response rates and outcomes for dogs with large B cell lymphoma treated with CHOP chemotherapy that did not achieve complete response to CHOP and were treated with a rescue protocol.

A systematic review of published literature describing rescue protocols for canine lymphoma was performed. Direct comparison of published protocols is hampered by the heterogeneous nature of the treated populations, which included combinations of dogs that had relapsed after completion of chemotherapy, dogs that had failed to respond to the initial protocol, dogs with different subtypes of lymphoma, and dogs that had received varying numbers of protocols prior to rescue.

Based on the available literature, the most effective rescue protocol for dogs with large B cell lymphoma that is resistant to CHOP cannot be determined. Future reports of rescue protocols for lymphoma should report outcomes for dogs with resistant (as opposed to relapsed) disease and different lymphoma subtypes separately in order to make more meaningful comparisons between protocols.