Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) is an umbrella term that refers to several conditions that can affect the urinary bladder and/or urethra of cats. In cats under 10 years of age, the most common cause of FLUTD is Feline Idiopathic Cystitis or FIC. As its name implies, Feline Idiopathic Cystitis is a disorder of unknown cause that affects a quarter to a half million cats annually in North America.\cite{1} FIC is characterized by frequent, bloody, and painful urinations, house-soiling, and in some cases, life threatening urinary obstruction. Currently, there is no specific diagnostic marker or consistently effective means of treatment and prevention of FIC\cite{2}. Our inability to successfully treat FIC is often the reason that many affected cats are surrendered, abandoned or euthanized.

Feline idiopathic cystitis is a valuable naturally occurring model for a similar disease in humans known as interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome (IC/BPS)\cite{3}. First-line treatment strategies for IC/BPS center around diet and lifestyle modification\cite{4}. Similarly, recent research has shown that diet and lifestyle changes may be effective in reducing recurrence of signs associated with FIC\cite{5,6}. Additionally, there has been increased interest in novel drug therapies such as intravesical instillations which are designed to restore urothelial barrier function in both humans\cite{7} and cats\cite{8,9}.

This talk will focus on novel therapies for feline idiopathic cystitis including environmental modification and diet therapy, as well as current and emerging pharmacologic and nutraceutical agents. The strength of evidence for each of these therapies will also be evaluated\cite{10}. Strategies for implementing these therapies for long-term management of cats with FIC will also be discussed.

\begin{enumerate}
\item Hanno PM, Burks DA, Clemens JQ, et al. AUA guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome. J Urol 2011;185:2162-70
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