

SARDS CASE REPORT #4

Estradiol levels and hormone replacement therapy in one SARDS-affected dog

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Objective: To describe the laboratory findings, hormone replacement therapy, and outcome of one dog affected with Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome (SARDS). Animal studied: A 10-year-old, neutered male Beagle diagnosed with SARDS on May 23, 2006. The owner reported signs consistent with elevated adrenal activity, including PU/PD (excessive drinking and urination). PP (excessive appetite), obesity, and lethargy. Time since onset = 11 months. **Procedure:** A baseline estradiol level (Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY) indicated elevated estradiol production. The general practice veterinarian initiated hormone replacement therapy with injectable triamcinolone acetonide 3mg. In addition, oral methylprednisolone 2mg sid (once daily), levothyroxine 0.3mg bid (twice daily), and azulfidine 250 mg bid (twice daily) were dispensed. Estradiol level was repeated in two months. The owner subsequently reported a medication error in which methylprednisilone was dispensed twice daily rather than once daily. **Results:** Estradiol level declined to mid-normal range. The owner reported some improvement in lethargy and PU/PD. **Conclusion:** Glucocorticoid and thyroid hormone replacement had a positive effect on laboratory findings and some clinical findings. The recurring medication error resulted in a daily dose of methylprednisilone that was twice the physiological-level replacement dose. This may have contributed to persistent signs of PP and obesity.

Table 1. Estradiol levels before and after glucocorticoid and thyroid replacement

<i>Cornell University CVM</i>	Baseline	2 months after treatment	Normal range (males)
estradiol	23.4	6.40	< 20 pc/ml