



In dogs diagnosed with osteoarthritis, is meloxicam superior to carprofen for reducing patient discomfort?

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My name is Lesca Monica Sofyan and I'm a final year doctor of veterinary medicine student from Sydney, Australia. In less than two months, I'll be graduating and working as a full-time small animal veterinarian. I wanted to present a clinical question, which was a common and ongoing issue amongst small animal patients, canine osteoarthritis. It is our roles as veterinarians that we provide to our clients and patients, the up most easily available and immediate goal-centred treatments when first diagnosed.

At this stage, there are two main non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, in short NSAIDs, which are most favourable and popular – meloxicam and carprofen. As great as it is that we can provide options to our beloved clients and patients, one of the most common questions that we'll get asked is if one is superior than another. My research found that there were only two papers that have only ever validated and compared the efficacy between meloxicam and carprofen.

Both of these studies were clinical prospective and randomized trials, the first paper had orthopaedic surgeons find that dogs treated with either meloxicam or carprofen showed significant improvement in ground reaction forces and emphasized more that dogs treated with meloxicam had ground reaction forces values that returned to normal baseline values. In addition, owners also commented on gait improvement in their dogs. This study, however, had a lower sample size and did not use a validated metrology instrument for assessment by owners. The second study only descriptively suggest that meloxicam to show a better response than carprofen, but there was no scientific analysis or evidence to statistically support this and validate it. at the end of my research and findings, it was concluded that the evidence out there was not significantly strong enough to accurately state that meloxicam or carprofen was superior to one another.

At the end of the day, our selection of the NSAID should be tailored for that specific patient's wellbeing and its health as both NSAIDs, meloxicam, and carprofen are validated as effective treatments for canine osteoarthritis.

Thank you.

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