

A qualitative investigation into client and veterinary professionals' perspectives on Librela to manage canine osteoarthritis: effectiveness, satisfaction and perceptions



Melissa Gabriella Mantle RVN (BSc Hons) SQP
(melissamantle@yahoo.co.uk)

Pippa Bond RVN (BSc Hons) PgCert TSLHE FHEA
(pbond@harper-adams.ac.uk)

Introduction

Librela is an injectable anti-NGF mAbs therapy for canines experiencing pain from diagnosed osteoarthritis. It works by binding to and blocking the protein known as nerve growth factor (NGF), which prevents pain signal transmission due to a reduction in excessive NGF. It is common for owners to rely on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to manage osteoarthritic pain and although it has been effective, NSAIDs are known to be associated with severe side effects (Johnston and Budsberg, 1997). A recent report by the FDA (2024) also argues adverse events have been linked to Librela use such as seizures, paresis, ataxia and recumbency.

Objectives: To obtain perspectives on Librela from veterinary professionals and dog owners based on their experiences, to enable dog owners to access more information about it and assist dog owners' decisions when considering Librela use for canine osteoarthritis. Deriving perspectives and experiences to be able to investigate various side effects experienced is another objective.

Results

Participants of interviews and questionnaires were asked 'what side effects have you encountered since your dog has started Librela injections?' and responses are shown in Figure 1. A significant association was shown between side effects reported by dog owners and veterinary professionals ($P= 0.006$). No significant association was shown between Librela lasting the full 4 weeks following administration and whether changes have been put in place to alleviate any potential discomfort ($P= 0.317$). Another significant association was made ($P= 0.006$) between owners who are likely to recommend Librela to other dog owners with a dog that has osteoarthritis and whether they want to continue using Librela as a management option or not.

Methods

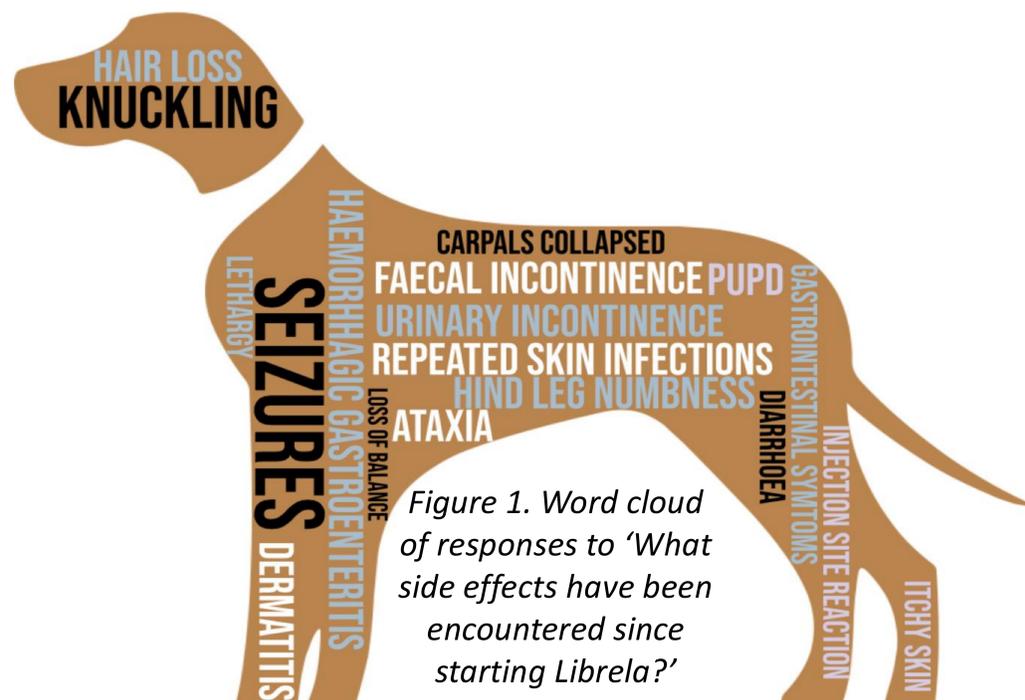
Mixed methodology approach consisting of semi-structured interviews with a maximum of 15 minutes for questionnaires (Sharma, 2022).

Both inclusion criterion included being over 18 years old and for one questionnaire the veterinary professional must be either a Veterinary Surgeon or Registered Veterinary Nurse practicing in the UK and for the other questionnaire, the dog owner must have/had a dog that has had Librela injections. Data was analysed using cross-tabulations, the Chi-Squared test and NVivo for interview data to determine frequent themes.

Discussion/Conclusion

This study has demonstrated multiple varying perceptions and experiences dog owners and veterinary professionals have had with Librela and, despite the positive outcomes patients experience with Librela, there are several side effects which need to be carefully considered before its use. A significant association was shown between dog owners recommending Librela to other dog owners and how likely they are to continue using Librela for their own dog's osteoarthritis. This demonstrates and links to a previous study regarding Librela to effectively address pain and improve quality of life (Corral *et al.*, 2021).

Results from the study indicate a significant association between the side effects observed by veterinary professionals and dog owners, which signifies dog owners are integral to the observation of side effects when considering Librela use. This links back to the objectives of the research project, as dog owners and veterinary professionals will be able to review the perceptions and experiences individuals have had with Librela to help fill this gap in research.



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I want to dedicate my work and ultimately the reason for starting my degree to Delta, my wonderful dog and loyal companion of over 11 years, who left this world in the few months leading up to the completion of this degree.

References

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