



# RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

## APPROACH TO INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF CANINE GENERALISED EPILEPTIC SEIZURES IN PRIMARY CARE VETERINARY PRACTICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Full paper published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice available [here](#)

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### STUDY

Epileptic seizures are one of the most common neurological problems of dogs encountered by primary care vets in the UK. Electronic health records from 224 vet practices over 5 years to investigate seizure management at the initial consultation.

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### AFFECTED DOGS IN THIS STUDY

517 dogs aged between 0 and 6 years old were evaluated. The median age at onset of the first reported seizure was 3.2 years. Crossbreeds, herding and mastiff-like dogs were more likely to present initially with cluster seizures, compared to retrievers

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### USE AND CHOICE OF ASD

67 dogs were given anti-seizure drugs (ASDs) at first presentation; this was more likely in those with cluster seizures. Phenobarbital was the most frequently prescribed ASD overall, followed by imepitoin, potassium bromide and levetiracetam.

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### FOLLOW UP

Interestingly, of 165 dogs presented for 1 seizure and with at least 6-months follow-up period, 33 (20%) did not have subsequent seizures recorded

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### CLUSTER SEIZURES

86 dogs presented for cluster seizures; 38 were started on ASDs. Imepitoin was most frequently chosen despite no authorisation for this purpose.

Management of cluster seizures in primary care practice appears to be an area that could be improved in line with International Veterinary Epilepsy Task Force (IVETF) guidelines.

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### CLINICAL RELEVANCE

This information may help to improve cohesion in seizure management between primary care and referral practices, as well as align it with IVETF recommendations.

Thank you to all veterinary practices participating in SAVSNET for making this research possible.

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