



# RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

## ANALYSIS OF CANINE CARDIOVASCULAR THERAPEUTIC AGENT PRESCRIPTIONS USING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS IN PRIMARY CARE VETERINARY PRACTICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Full paper published in the Journal of Veterinary Cardiology available [here](#)

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### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiovascular diseases are relatively common in dogs in the UK.

The objectives were to describe CV therapeutic agent (CVTA) prescribing patterns in primary-care practices in the UK, and to evaluate recorded clinical signs, diagnostic tests, and clear justifications for use of torasemide.

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### STUDY DESIGN

Electronic health records (EHRs) describing 3,579,420 consultations (1,043,042 unique dogs) were collated by SAVSNET from 270 veterinary practices over a 4 year period.

Consultations prescribing at least one CV therapeutic agent (CVTA) were identified.

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### DRUG PRESCRIPTION

Cardiovascular therapeutic agents were often prescribed to older and smaller dogs when compared to consultations without prescriptions.

Furosemide and pimobendan were most prescribed either individually or in combination.

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### TORASEMIDE

Diagnostic tests were rarely performed prior to torasemide prescription.

Torasemide was mainly prescribed when furosemide resistance was suspected despite its authorisation as a first-line diuretic.

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### PRESCRIBING PATTERNS

Prescribing patterns changed in response to new, or additional, market authorisations.

A negative trend for ACE inhibitor and spironolactone prescriptions was observed but is difficult to interpret given that they can be used in various canine disease processes.

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### TREATMENT OPTIONS

Having a greater range of authorised CVTA appears to significantly hasten a wider range of agents being deployed, which has the potential benefit of improving treatment quality and outcomes if veterinary professionals are adequately educated on their use.

This paper, for the first time, examines trends in cardiovascular prescriptions in general practice. The use of torasemide is becoming widespread, which is exciting as its availability provides us with more options for the treatment of heart failure in dogs. SAVSNET has been an invaluable resource for completing this research and we are grateful to all the practices who made this work possible.



Dr Liz Bode