

Diurnal ACTH and plasma cortisol variations in healthy dogs and in those with pituitary-dependent Cushing's syndrome before and after treatment with retinoic acid

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Resumen

Daytime variations in ACTH and plasma cortisol were studied in healthy dogs and in dogs with pituitary-dependent hypercortisolism (PDH), before and after treatment with retinoic acid. In control dogs ACTH showed a higher concentration at 8.00 AM and between 2.00 and 6.00 PM, with the lowest concentration registered at 10.00 AM ($p < 0.05$ vs. 8.00 AM and 2.00 PM and $p < 0.01$ vs. 4.00 PM). Cortisol did not show significant differences. In dogs with PDH, ACTH was lower at 8.00 AM (ACTH: $p < 0.01$ vs. 2.00 and 4.00 PM; and $p < 0.05$ vs. 6.00 PM). The lowest cortisol concentration was registered at 8.00 AM and 8.00 PM and the highest at 4.00 PM ($p < 0.05$ vs. 8.00 AM and $p < 0.01$ vs. 8.00 PM). After treatment, the lowest ACTH concentration was registered at 10.00 AM ($p < 0.01$ vs. 2.00 and 4.00 PM). To conclude, the adrenal is desensitized in PDH possibly showing negative in diagnostic tests.

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