

August 27, 2019

Dear owner of a cat with FIP: I am receiving many emails and phone calls regarding cats that are either being treated with GS-441524 with or without help from veterinarians or from owners that intend to start treatment with GS from Chinese black-market sources and need advice. It is essential that owners have access to a personal veterinarian that is knowledgeable about FIP, that the cat be confirmed to suffer from FIP and not another disease, and that veterinarians assist with the treatment to assure proper administration of the drug and correct monitoring for a response. I cannot replace a personal veterinarian in these cases. All of the information that owners and veterinarians require is covered in the April 2019 issue of Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, which describes the drug, how it is administered and how treatment should be monitored. A copy of the paper can be downloaded free of cost by owners or veterinarians at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/1098612X19825701>. I must also warn owners seeking GS-441524 treatment that it is expensive, stressful for owners and cats, requires proper monitoring, and is not always successful. Cats with neurological FIP are the most difficult to treat and often require an even higher dosage. I also cannot offer advice on the best sources of GS-441524, as it is currently only available from the Chinese black-market and has no official approval for veterinary use. Veterinarians will be rightfully resistant to purchase and resale of black-market drugs and will either refuse to help with treatment or only assist if owners take responsibility for the purchase and the unapproved veterinary use of GS-441524 for treatment of FIP. It should also be noted that these black-market suppliers have been given a cease and desist order by the patent holder, Gilead Sciences, Inc., and that this unapproved source of GS-441524 cannot be assured in the future.