CE FOR THE ONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR CE

"Pearls" of Veterinary Medicine

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AT A GLANCE

Cardiology – One Health

Digitalis may make a comeback (human medicine)

A recent meta-analysis in **human** heart failure patients showed that adding digitalis to standard "foundational medical therapy" (ACE inhibitors, β-blockers, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists, and, more recently, SGLT2 inhibitors) reduced the risk of heart failure hospitalization and cardiovascular death, although it did not reduce all-cause mortality.

Damman K, et al. Efficacy and Safety of Digitalis Glycosides in Heart Failure: A Meta-Analysis. JAMA. Published online May 10, 2026.

Cap Rep (2026).44(7):1

Clinical Pathology

Blood cell ratios-clinical applications

Hematological ratios derived from routine complete blood counts are increasingly recognized as valuable indicators of systemic inflammation, stress, and disease severity in veterinary patients. These composite indices often provide a more integrated reflection of the body's physiological response to disease compared to individual hematological parameters, as they are generally less affected by pre-analytical variations and physiological fluctuations.

See the supplementary table for the most important ratios.

Additional Ratios:

Basophil- to-Lymphocyte Ratio (BLR): "basophils play a key role in cytokine signaling and histamine release" and "may correlate with disease progression, inflammation burden, and immune response in allergies and neoplasms." NB: No ratios were available.

Eosinophil-to-Lymphocyte Ratio (ELR): "reflects the balance between inflammation mediated by eosinophils and immune regulation mediated by lymphocytes." NB: No ratios were available.

Platelet distribution width-to-platelet ratio (PDW/PLT): may be useful for monitoring localized or systemic inflammation.

Red cell distribution width (RDW): RDW ≥13.6 is a negative prognostic indicator for canine myxomatous valve disease [ref].

Red blood cell distribution width-to-total serum calcium ratio (RDW/ Ca):>12.7 predicted higher short-term mortality in canine acute pancreatitis.

Associations:

Canine Inflammatory Bowel Disease is associated with **increased** NLR, PLR and MLR but canine periodontitis is associated with **decreased** NLR, PNR and PLR ratios.

Canine cholangiohepatitis is associated with increased NLR, PLR and RDW/LYM ratios.

Canine pancreatitis is associated with increased NLR, PLR and RDW/CA.

Canine cardiovascular disease is associated with increased NLR, PLR, MLR, but decreased RDW/PLT.

Certain hematological ratios demonstrate superior diagnostic, staging, and prognostic utility for various canine and feline malignancies. Incorporating these metrics into oncological profiles enhances clinical assessment; see page 10 of the article for specifics.

Feline arterial thromboembolism (FATE): NLR >8 was associated with markedly reduced median survival (51 days), compared to 174 days for NLR 5–8 and 457 days for NLR <5. Elevated levels of the following markers indicated

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PO Box 6518, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
www.capsulereport.com 877-820-9299 editor@capsulereport.com