MGN-3

What is MGN-3?

MGN-3 is the trade name for arabinoxylan that has been extracted from the bran of rice and then enzymatically treated with an extract of shiitake mushrooms. It is primarily used as an immune stimulant and to fight cancer in humans. It also appears to enhance outcomes achieved with conventional cancer treatments such as chemotherapy.

Why recommend administration of MGN-3 to my pet?

MGN-3 increases natural killer cell activity by stimulating increased levels of *tumor necrosis factor* and *interferon* (both natural substances made by the body that either prevent tumor cell replication or aid actual tumor cell death). Natural killer cells assist in identification and elimination of cells that have mutated and become cancerous. They also assist with immunity against infections in general.

Not surprisingly, then, MGN-3 has been investigated for and shown promise in humans for the treatment of HIV, cancer, and other alleged viral infections such as chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome (CFIDS). Not surprisingly, veterinarians are likewise starting to explore the potential of MGN-3 in the treatment of cancer and viral infections in small animals. Investigations are still at a very early stage.

MGN-3 is extracted from the bran of rice and treated with an extract of shitake mushrooms.

How successful is MGN-3?

Because investigations have only just begun, it is uncertain how effective MGN-3 potentially is to the treatment of small animal cancer and viral disorders. Given that the supplement appears safe and free of side effects, there appears little downside to exploring its use in veterinary medicine. Research to confirm or deny a benefit of MGN-3 in animals is greatly needed and completely lacking.

Where do I obtain MGN-3 and do I need a prescription?

Your veterinarian may have preferred supplements that he or she will recommend. Pet owners are cautioned against buying supplements without knowledge of the manufacturer, as supplements are not highly regulated and some supplements may not contain the labelled amount of ingredients. A prescription is not needed for MGN-3.

This client information sheet is based on material written by Steve Marsden, DVM ND MSOM LAc DiplCH AHG, Shawn Messonnier, DVM and Cheryl Yuill, DVM, MSc, CVH.
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