

## Press release



### TheraVet launches a prospective multicentric clinical trial in canine osteosarcoma

**Jumet (Wallonia, Belgium), November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - TheraVet S.A.**, the specialist of the osteo-articular diseases of small companion animals, **announces the launch of a prospective multicentric clinical trial in canine osteosarcoma with BIOCERA-VET**, TheraVet's injectable synthetic self-hardening calcium-phosphate cement.

Canine osteosarcoma is the most frequent primary bone cancer in dogs, accounting for 85% of all canine bone cancers<sup>(1)</sup>. It is a very aggressive cancer affecting mainly the appendicular skeleton: pathological fractures and severe pain are commonly reported. The mean survival time of the animal usually sets between 4 to 5 months without any treatment, with a one-year survival time below 10%. Currently, osteosarcoma is managed by amputation or limb-sparing surgeries associated with chemotherapy, increasing survival rate at 1 year to up to 50%<sup>(2)</sup>. However, 50% of those dogs surviving beyond 1 year thanks to these treatments are likely to develop metastatic disease with a median survival time of 9 months<sup>(3)</sup>. Amputation may not be a viable option for heavy large-breed and giant-breed dogs, especially when they suffered concomitant neurologic or orthopaedic affections (dysplasia, degenerative joint disease ...).

Furthermore, owners of these animals are more and more expecting palliative treatments that may not require amputation. Finally, limb-sparing surgeries using endoprosthesis and cortical allograft are complex procedures that cannot be performed in all affected sites and are associated with major complications. Alternative techniques are therefore truly needed.

Olivier Gauthier, Professor of Small Animal Surgery and Dentistry at the Oniris College of Veterinary Medicine (Nantes, France), has developed over the past years a minimally invasive limb-sparing surgical technique consisting in cementing the tumoral site with an injectable

calcium-phosphate cement<sup>(4)</sup>. Pr. Gauthier's pioneer works have showed that such technique allowed to preserve limb function and to provide an immediate and long-lasting pain relief, improving considerably the animal well-being.

To contribute to the validation of this new therapeutic approach, TheraVet has initiated a prospective multicentric clinical study. The study will be conducted in 9 sites in France and in Belgium with Pr. Gauthier as Principal Investigator.

*“Cementoplasty of appendicular osteosarcoma could represent a palliative alternative to limb amputation in giant and large breed dogs.” said Pr. Gauthier. “This surgical procedure is minimally invasive and can be performed percutaneously, preserving weight-bearing, limb function and quality of life during several months, without any major complication due to cement injection. By combining TheraVet's resources with our research capabilities, I am convinced that we will very soon be able to develop new treatments for this disease which is very difficult to manage and for which there is a strong medical need. ”*

Enrico Bastianelli, TheraVet CEO, concluded: *“We are honoured and very excited to collaborate with Pr. Gauthier's outstanding research team and to support such quality scientific research which contributes to animal welfare.”*



## About TheraVet

*TheraVet is a vet company created in November 2017 by Enrico Bastianelli, MD, MBA, and based in Jumet, Belgium. The Company specializes in the treatment of osteoarticular diseases in small companion animals, such as dogs, using a portfolio of biological and synthetic products. TheraVet currently has two product lines in its pipeline: BIOCERA-VET, a line of synthetic injectable self-hardening high porosity calcium-phosphate bone void fillers and VISCO-VET, a versatile line of injectable hyaluronan-based visco-regenerative gel with anti-inflammatory and pro-regenerative properties.*

## About BIOCERA-VET

*BIOCERA-VET is a line of synthetic injectable self-hardening calcium-phosphate bone substitutes. BIOCERA-VET, a new veterinary medical device, presents unique properties combining ideal bone formation and remodelling properties associated to mechanical resistance. BIOCERA-VET targets bone surgeries (such as arthrodesis, fractures) and osteosarcoma in small companions (dogs and cats) and bone cyst in horses.*

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<sup>(1)</sup>Dernell WS, Straw RC, Withrow SJ. Tumors of the skeletal system. In: Withrow SJ, MacEwan EG, eds. *Small Animal Clinical Oncology*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 2001:378–417

<sup>(2)</sup>Siobhan Simpson, Mark David Dunning, Simone de Brot, Llorenç Grau-Roma Nigel Patrick Mongan, Catrin Sian Rutland. Comparative review of human and canine osteosarcoma: morphology, epidemiology, prognosis, treatment and genetics *Acta Vet Scand* 2017 Oct 24;59(1):71. doi: 10.1186/s13028-017-0341-9.

<sup>(3)</sup>Culp WT, Olea-Popelka F, Sefton J, Aldridge CF, Withrow SJ, Lafferty MH, Rebhun RB, Kent MS, Ehrhart N. Evaluation of outcome and prognostic factors for dogs living greater than one year after diagnosis of osteosarcoma: 90 cases (1997–2008). *J Am Vet Med Assoc*. 2014;245:1141–6.

<sup>(4)</sup> A synthetic bone substitute which can be used for the treatment of a bone defect instead of biological (autologous or allogeneic) or other synthetic bone grafts.