

Inflammatory Markers in Cats

How often have you felt sure that your feline patient had an inflammatory condition and yet a CBC didn't support it? This isn't surprising because the sensitivities of leukocytosis and neutrophilia were only 34 and 37% respectively in a study carried out by Trumel *et. al.*, (2018). The presence of band cells and toxic neutrophils increased sensitivities to 80% and 86%. However, the parameters that showed sensitivities around 100% were A/G ratio, fibrinogen concentration and serum Amyloid A (SAA) with specificity in all three also found to be very high. While the numbers look great, the authors conceded that the study population was small and may not reflect all clinical scenarios.

If you are suspicious of inflammatory disease in a feline patient consider running fibrinogen or SAA in addition to a CBC. The advantage to fibrinogen is that it is low cost, the disadvantages are that it can take 24 hours to increase after the onset of inflammatory disease, and sufficient plasma to run the test is needed. SAA, on the other hand rises within 8 hours, however, it is a more expensive test to run.

Reference: C Trumel, E Gaillard, V Leynaud, M Aumann, JP Braun. Comparison of the diagnostic accuracy of markers of the acute phase of inflammation in cats. A preliminary evaluation. Published in Comparative Clinical Pathology 2018:
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00580-018-2886-z>

