

Dr. Armando Villamil's Epidemiology Case Studies

Hello, I am Dr. Villamil. I attended the University of Missouri from which I completed my medical oncology residency and achieved a PhD in epidemiology. This is an unusual combination that has allowed me to evaluate things with a different perspective. As such, I will be investigating and conducting further clinical research at ACCC.

Some of the interesting things I was able to do during my PhD were to work closely with the Veterinary Medical Database (VMDB). The VMDB is a comprehensive database comprised of more than 7 million records of a variety of species from 1964 to the present. With this tool, I was able to investigate different theories that have been proposed but not confirmed. One publication titled "Hormonal and Sex Impact on the epidemiology of Canine Lymphoma" published in the Journal of Cancer Epidemiology 2009;2009:7, showed that intact females have a decreased likelihood of developing canine lymphoma when compared to spayed females, intact or neutered males. In another article, "Update of Canine Skin Tumor Epidemiological Data using the Veterinary Medical Database", accepted but not yet published in JAVMA, I used the VMDB to update the distribution of skin tumors in dogs. This information is particularly valuable for future studies in canine skin tumors.

With my epidemiological background, I will not only continue to work with the VMDB, but also I will utilize our continually growing oncology database here at ACCC. With our computerized records, I will be able to search specific information to perform an infinite number of studies. Studies will include case-control studies comparing different treatment protocols, as well as epidemiological studies among our specific populations. Our first study already underway is looking at the effectiveness of CCNU (lomustine) on the treatment of naïve T cell lymphomas. Currently the only protocol shown to have an advantage when treating T cell compared to B cell lymphomas is MOPP. Unfortunately, this protocol can have severe side effects and can be somewhat costly. Our intent is to evaluate the efficacy of CCNU as a single agent in the treatment of naïve T cell lymphomas. We will compare our study population (naïve T cell lymphomas treated with CCNU) to our control population (naïve T cell lymphomas treated with a CHOP protocol).

Through your referrals and partnership, we will expand our case population and continue to be the industry leader in pet cancer medicine. If you have any particular ideas you would like us to investigate, or if you have any questions about an oncology case or statistical study, please do not hesitate to contact me.