The UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego announces the availability of Therapeutic Apheresis (therapeutic plasma exchange, plasma adsorption, and leukopheresis) as an addition to its extracorporeal offerings in Sorrento Valley.

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The UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego is a center of excellence based on cooperation with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, UC San Diego Health Sciences, and animal institutes of the San Diego region.

The center promotes and enhances animal health through interdisciplinary teaching, research, service and outreach.

Clinical Leadership

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UC Veterinary Medical Center
San Diego

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What is Therapeutic Apheresis?
Therapeutic apheresis is a process of selectively removing blood components (plasma, RBCs, WBCs, and platelets) from continuously flowing blood by centrifugation.

- **Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE)** is the procedure to remove pathologic substances (generally pathologic antibodies and exogenous toxics) from patients with immune-mediated or autoimmune diseases, drug overdosage, or poisoning.

- **Plasma Adsorption** selectively removes exogenous poisons, drugs, or endogenous substances (cytokines, cholesterol) which are not removable by hemodialysis.

- **Leukopheresis** selectively removes abnormal RBCs and malignant leukocytes. Alternatively, healthy components of the buffy coat (platelets, lymphocytes, stem cells, granulocytes) are harvested for selective processing and reinfused for immunotherapy or transplantation.

Indications for TPE

**Neuromuscular Diseases**
- Myasthenia gravis
- Polyradiculoneuritis
- Acute polymyositis

**Hematologic Diseases**
- Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia
- Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia
- Hyperviscosity syndrome
- Hyperleukocytosis (leukemia)
- Polycythemia
- Pure red cell aplasia (anti-EPO antibodies)
- Neonatal isoerythrolysis
- Red blood cell exchange

**Kidney Diseases**
- Lyme-associated nephritis
- Systemic lupus
- Lepto-associated pulmonary hemorrhage
- Lyme-associated glomerulonephritis

**Metabolic Diseases**
- Acute hepatic failure
- Hyperlipidemia

**Miscellaneous**
- Drug overdosage
- Exogenous toxin removal
- Polyarthritis
- Pemphigus foliaceus

Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia

Effects of a single (3-hour) TPE treatment to correct severe in-saline agglutination in a dog with IMHA.

Therapeutic Plasma Exchange should be considered as a FIRST LINE treatment for severe IMHA.

Therapeutic plasma exchange and plasma adsorption for acute poisoning