

4 Tips for SGLT-2 Inhibitor Patient Selection

Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors are a new class of drugs in veterinary medicine that have been approved by the FDA to treat newly diagnosed diabetes mellitus in cats. However, because cats have unique physiologic and metabolic characteristics, patient selection for this therapy requires careful consideration. Here are 4 tips from Renee Rucinsky, DVM, DABVP (Feline), for determining which cats can benefit from this innovative treatment. Scan the QR code below to hear the full Vet2Vet conversation between Dr. Rucinsky and Cassi Fleming, MS, DVM, sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health.

1. The ideal candidate

SGLT2 inhibitors are appropriate for otherwise healthy diabetic cats, specifically those newly diagnosed who have not been previously treated with injectable insulin. These cats are typically overweight, eating well, and not clinically sick.

2. Check for comorbidities

Cats affected by comorbidities, such as chronic kidney disease, endocrinopathies, liver disease, or pancreatitis, typically are not good SGLT2 inhibitor candidates. Suggested diagnostics include a complete blood count, biochemistry panel with electrolytes, urinalysis (including urine ketones), and a total T4. Ideal candidates will have an absence of ketones in the urine and show no evidence of concurrent illness.

3. Assess pancreas health

SGLT2 inhibitors provide a platform for the cat's own endogenous insulin, so a cat's pancreatic β cells must be able to make at least some insulin. In a thin, geriatric, diabetic cat with inflammatory bowel disease or small cell lymphoma, inflammatory or neoplastic cells may infiltrate the pancreas and inhibit β cell

function, making SGLT2 inhibitors less effective.

4. Monitor regularly for ketosis

Euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis is a slight risk when using SGLT2 inhibitors, and regular ketosis monitoring is important. If screening for serum ketones is possible, then blood beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB) should be considered at the time of initial screening. In healthy, non-diabetic cats, plasma blood beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB) concentrations are usually less than 0.1 mmol/L. Most well-regulated, clinically healthy diabetic cats will have BHB levels under 2 mmol/L, but values higher than 2.4 mmol/L indicate substantial ketosis.



[Scan and listen to the Vet2Vet discussion between Dr. Cassi and Dr. Rucinsky.](#)

Brought to you by Boehringer Ingelheim ■ [SENVELGOclinic.com](https://www.senvelgoclinic.com)

For more information, please see full prescribing information.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Due to an increased risk of the development of diabetic ketoacidosis or euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis, which may result in death, do not use SENVELGO® (velagliflozin oral solution) in cats with diabetes mellitus who have previously been treated with insulin, who are receiving insulin, or in cats with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. See package insert for full prescribing information or visit [SENVELGOclinic.com](https://www.senvelgoclinic.com).

SENVELGO® is a registered trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH, used under license. ©2024 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. US-PET-0866-2024

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Senvelgo
(velagluflozin
oral solution)

Simplify treating feline diabetes for cats, their owners, and your clinic, with the convenience of a once-daily liquid oral solution.



Accepted by 98% of cats¹



Delivers **sustained glycemic control** starting as soon as 1 week for most cats¹



Minimal risk of **clinical hypoglycemic events**^{2,3}



Backed by the **Feline Diabetes Patient Support Program**



3 months supply*



SCAN
FOR
DETAILS

*Based on average catweight of 11 lbs

1. Data on file at Boehringer Ingelheim.

2. SENVELGO® (velagluflozin oral solution) [Freedom of Information Summary; NADA 141-568]. St. Joseph, MO: Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.; 2023.

3. SENVELGO® (velagluflozin oral solution) [prescribing information] Duluth, GA: Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.; 2023.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: SENVELGO® (velagluflozin oral solution) is indicated to improve glycemic control in otherwise healthy cats with diabetes mellitus not previously treated with insulin. Before using this product, it is important to read the entire product insert, including the boxed warning.

Cats treated with SENVELGO may be at an increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis or euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis, both of which may result in death. Development of these conditions should be treated promptly, including insulin administration and discontinuation of SENVELGO.

Do not use SENVELGO in cats with diabetes mellitus who have previously been treated with insulin, who are receiving insulin, or in cats with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. The use of SENVELGO in cats with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, or the withdrawal of insulin and initiation of SENVELGO, is associated with an increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis or euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis and death.

Sudden onset of hyporexia/anorexia, lethargy, dehydration, or weight loss in cats receiving SENVELGO should prompt immediate discontinuation of SENVELGO and assessment for diabetic ketoacidosis, regardless of blood glucose level. SENVELGO should not be initiated in cats with ketonuria, ketonemia, pancreatitis, anorexia, dehydration, or lethargy at the time of diagnosis of diabetes mellitus, as it may indicate the presence of other concurrent disease and increase the risk of diabetic ketoacidosis.

Keep SENVELGO in a secure location out of reach of children, dogs, cats, and other animals to avoid accidental ingestion or overdose. For more information, please refer to the enclosed package insert or visit SENVELGOclinic.com.



SENVELGO® and the SENVELGO Logo® are registered trademarks and the Cat & Drop Logo® is a trademark of Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GmbH, used under license. ©2024 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All rights reserved. US-PEF0136-2024