DRAGONFLY HOLISTIC
VETERINARY CARE

LIBRELA ADVERSE EVENTS

DR LISA FIORENZA DVM



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Imagine you're in an office or apartment building...

and the fire alarms suddenly start blaring non-stop. Rather than grab your essentials and hightail it out of there, you head down to the basement and snip the wires that run the alarms. This wire also happens to control the sprinkler system and the emergency dispatch. It's now blissfully silent, but are you safe?

A new review in the **UK-VET Companion Animal journal** has potentially identified the mechanism of some of the severe side effects we're seeing from the arthritis pain injection for dogs, Librela, and presumably the cat version, Solensia. And that appears to be precisely what we're doing in the bodies of our furry friends.

Rather than treating the root of the problem when arthritis pain shows up **(the "alarm")**, we're snipping the whole safety system by blocking Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) in their bodies with these injectable drugs. And then assuming that all will be well...



In the 2 years since its release, a number of **very serious side effects** of these drugs have come to light, ranging from minor issues like increased drinking, to serious neurologic (nerve-related) ones including **rapid progression of dementia and a number of spinal diseases including paralysis, and even death.**

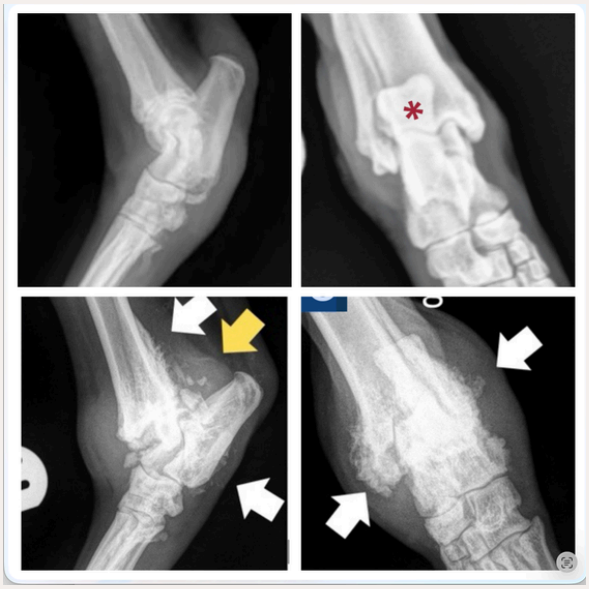
This review highlighted suspected causes of the two musculoskeletal side effects of the Nerve Growth Factor-blocking drugs Librela/Solensia in particular: **Rapidly Progressive Osteoarthritis (RPOA) and "anti-nerve growth factor-induced insidious periarticular mineralisation" (AIPM).**



(Note that these are not before & afters)

Top left: Normal elbow
Bottom left: Normal ankle

Top right: Librela elbow (>6 injections)
Bottom right: Librela ankle (>6 injections)



(Note that these are not before & afters)

Top left: Normal ankle
Bottom left: Librela ankle. Was normal on X-rays before Librela.

Top right: Normal ankle
Bottom right: Librela ankle. Was normal on X-rays before Librela.

RPOA can occur after as little as 1 or 2 Librela injections. Interestingly, RPOA was also seen in human studies run by Pfizer with the human version of this drug, tanezamub. This drug ultimately failed FDA approval because it was not considered efficacious enough to make up for its potentially serious side effects.

APIM is a slower process that leads to bizarre bone growth completely outside of the normal bone structure, including calcified tissue within joint spaces or soft tissue (tendons, ligaments, etc). **Unfortunately,** both RPOA and APIM are **extremely painful and irreversible.** And because the drug blocks the pain from these side effects until they're too severe for it to work any longer, they generally go unnoticed until they're catastrophically bad.

Pain is a warning signal. Its message is "something is not right here."

While inconvenient and unpleasant, it's our body's defense mechanism to avoid more serious injury. NGF is released at **injured bone or soft tissue** to stimulate that warning message, but also to recruit "clean up" cells (osteoclasts) as well as healing stem cells to the damaged area.

When this message is blocked, not only does healing not occur, but the injury progresses to end-stage, potentially catastrophic damage that wouldn't have otherwise developed.

The message here: human or other creature- listen to your body and do what you can to support it rather than just block what it's telling you. Thankfully, there are many wonderful herbs, supplements, and treatments (such as acupuncture, PEMF therapy, chiropractic, laser therapy, etc etc) at our disposal here at Dragonfly Holistic Veterinary Care that can reduce arthritis and other joint pain or weakness while also supporting and improving the underlying problem of joint damage.



Email us at dragonflyholisticvet@gmail.com or text us at (484)464-2205 for more information or to schedule your consultation for treatment.

References & Educational Sources:

- **Armitage, A. (2026, April 29). Identification and possible pathogenesis of bedinvetmab-associated adverse joint events. MAG Online Library. https://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/abs/10.12968/coan.2026.0009**
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Thank you for reading!