

Short Communication

ACUTE LEPTOSPIROSIS IN A DOG - A CASE REPORT

Leptospiral infection in dogs may produce both an acute disease or a mild subclinical form (Scznziani *et al.*, 1994). The present communication deals with a case of acute *L. icterohaemorrhagiae* infection in a dog.

A male German Shepherd dog (C-261), aged three and a half years was presented at the University Veterinary Hospital, Kokkalai, Thrissur with the history of emaciation, dullness, off feed, polydypsia, vomiting and coffee coloured urine for two days. The dog was missing from the house for the past two weeks and on return it had these symptoms.

On the day of presentation, a temperature of 104.2° F, icteric mucous membrane, rapid respiration and pulse rate and abdominal thread were recorded. On palpation, enlargement of superficial lymph nodes, marginal enlargement of liver and kidney could be appreciated. Haemoglobinuria and proteinuria were detected.

Haemogram revealed anaemia (6.7 g/dl), packed cell volume (23 %), high ESR rate (80 mm/hr) and leucocytosis (1,72,300/ul) with

neutrophilia (80 %). The blood smear was negative for haemoprotozoan parasites. Serum biochemical studies revealed significantly high level of bilirubin (45.25 mg/dl) and creatinine (2.95 mg/dl). Alanine Amino Transferase (ALT) level of 46 units/ml, total protein of 6.02 g/dl, albumin of 1.67 g/dl and globulin of 4.35 g/dl were also recorded.

Dark-Field Microscope (DFM) examination of blood revealed leptospirae, but attempts to isolate the organism were not successful. Serum sample collected on the day of admission was tested by Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) using a battery of live leptospira reference strains (Faine, 1982). The serum reacted to *L. icterohaemorrhagiae* with a titre of 1600.

The dog was treated with injections of Strepto-penicillin, 10% Dextrose, Sioneuron and Vitamin K for three days, but succumbed on the third day.

Dwight *et al.* (1962) had reported that in young dogs, the acute form of the disease to be more common with signs of fever, jaundice, congestion

of the mucous membranes and haemoglobinuria and was frequently fatal with death occurring one to four days after the disease onset. Ayyar (1932) reported symptoms of sudden off-feed, pyrexia, vomiting, conjunctivitis, passing of faeces with blood and icterus in an outbreak due to *L. icterohaemorrhagiae* among Hounds in Madras.

In the present case the clinical signs observed were in agreement with these reports.

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