

Short communication

EHRlichiosis IN A DOG - A CASE REPORT

Canine ehrlichiosis is a tick borne rickettsial disease of dogs and wild canidae caused by *Ehrlichia canis*, transmitted by the brown dog tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Donation and Lestoquard, 1935). It is known to occur in different states of India (Raghavachari and Reddy, 1958; Manohar and Ramakrishnan (1982).

A case of *E. canis* infection in a dog observed for the first time in Kerala is reported in this paper.

A female German shepherd dog aged 16 months was brought to the University Veterinary Hospital, Kokkalai, Trichur (Case No. 1421) on 12.6.95 with a complaint of fever, off feed and exhaustion. On clinical examination, the rectal temperature was 105.5° F, conjunctival mucous membrane was pale, superficial lymphnodes were enlarged and erythematous lesions were found on the ventral side of the abdomen. Heavy tick infestation was also found. Blood smears were collected and stained with Giemsa's stain and examined. *Ehrlichia canis* inclusion bodies were detected in the cytoplasm of the monocytes in the form of morulae taking a light blue stain. On haematological examination anaemia, thrombocytopenia, monocytosis and leukopaenia were observed.

The animal was treated with Wolicyclin* at the rate of 20 mg/kg b.w. intravenously for 14 days. In addition the dog was given Dextrose

saline 5% 200 ml intravenously and Belanyl** 2 ml intramuscularly for 3 days. Animal started showing improvement from the 3rd day of the treatment. The blood smears were negative for *E. canis* on 7th and 14th day of the treatment. Haematological values improved almost to normal during the same period. The animal was discharged as cured after 14 days of treatment.

In the treatment of *E. canis* infection oxytetracycline at the rate of 20 mg/kg body weight along with Belanyl and dextrose as supportive therapy was found to be effective as reported by Amyx *et al.* (1971). Haematological findings as reported by Price *et al.* (1987) and Waddle and Littman (1988) were observed in the present case also.

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References

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* Wolicyclin - (Wokhardt pharmaceuticals) Oxytetracycline 50 mg/ml

** Belanyl - (Sarabhai chemicals) - B complex vitamins with liver extract

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