

Clinical Article

CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF ONCOCERCIASIS

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Abstract: Oncocerciasis in cattle is caused by oncocerca volvulus also called as ‘oncodermatitis’. The infection is transmitted by several species of Black flies of the Genus ‘Simulium’. As the fly bites an infected animal, it ingests some microfilariae of oncocerca migrating in the skin. These microfilariae then get transformed into infective larvae in the fly and at the time of subsequent bite, the fly will transmit one or several of those infective larvae, which subsequently mate and forms a nodule i.e. ‘oncocercoma’ in the subcutaneous tissue [1].

There is papular or exudative dermatitis with alopecia and severe pruritus. The condition has been associated with presence of large number of microfilariae in the affected dermis [2].

Keywords: ONCOCERCIASIS, COW.

Introduction

Case history, observations and diagnosis

A 3 yr old cow was presented to the Clinics of the Post Graduate Institute of Veterinary and Animal Science, Akola,(M.S.) with signs of severe dehydration, rough body coat, loss of appetite, swollen pre-scapular lymph node and having temperature 102°F. History revealed that there is papular or exudative dermatitis with alopecia and severe pruritus.

Skin scraping of cow was processed with 10% KOH and examined under microscope which revealed more than 2-4 filaria/field or they were in clumps.

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Treatment

The animal was given Ivermectine (injection Neomec-Intas Pharmaceutical Ltd.) @ 0.2 mg/kg.body weight subcutaneous injection. Ivermectine, causes paralysis of worms by interfering with normal ion channels hence it is the drug of choice. Ivermectine doesn't kill the adult worm but reduces the microfilarial load and decreases risk of blindness and progression of the disease.

It is also advised to administer Ivermectine @ 150 microgram/kg body weight [maximum upto 12mg] every 6-12 months to suppress dermal microfilariae. Oxytetracycline was also given to inhibit protein synthesis of microfilaria.



Summary

The case microfilaria in cow was successfully treated by Ivermectine injected s.c. (Injection Neomec- Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd.) @ 0.2 mg /kg body weight.

References

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