

SUCCESSFUL THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT OF A CASE OF CANINE PAPILLOMATOSIS

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SUMMARY

A five and half year old Rottweiler bitch was presented with several cauliflower like growth on skin of face, ventral mandible, around eyes and also on skin of legs and ventral abdomen. Such growth was also present on dorsal and ventral areas of tongue. These growths were grayish-white in colour and were diagnosed as canine papillomatosis based on clinical examination. Treatment with tuja (a homeopathic medicine), autoimmune therapy (serum) and topical application like Podowart, apple cidar vinegar, proved ineffective. Later, lithium antimony thiomalate proved effective in treating the condition.

Key words: Bitch, canine papillomatosis, lithium antimony thiomalate

Papilloma viruses cause warts in dogs (Delius *et al.*, 1994) and the warts can be seen on penis, vulva, skin and conjunctival membranes (Sansom *et al.*, 1996). Cutaneous squamous papilloma (Campbell *et al.*, 1988), cutaneous inverted papilloma (Shimada *et al.*, 1993) and canine pigmented epidermal nevus (Nagata *et al.*, 1995) have been associated with papilloma virus infection. Multiple canine papillomas, though uncommon in occurrence, indicate involvement of more than one type of papilloma virus. Various treatment options available for canine papillomatosis include autogenous vaccination (Nicolls and Stanley, 1999) for prophylaxis as well as curative purpose, spontaneous regression and autoimmune therapy (Ghim *et al.*, 2000), surgical excision, cryotherapy, crushing of warts to stimulate immunity, antibiotics like azithromycin (Yagci *et al.*, 2008), lithium antimony thiomalate (Dileepkumar and Ansari, 2012), vincristine sulphate, tuja (Singh and Bhardwaj, 2014) etc. The present report describes a refractory case of canine papillomatosis with multiple mucocutaneous tumours in a bitch.

A five and half month old female Rottweiler was brought to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex of the University. Cauliflower like growth or warts of varied sizes were present on multiple sites including skin of face, peri-ocular region, ventral mandibular region, limbs, ventral abdominal wall and on dorsal and ventral aspects of tongue (Fig. 1). These warts were grayish-white in appearance. As reported, warts started appearing on the

body two months back with gradual increment in size. Based upon the clinical examination, it was diagnosed as a case of canine papillomatosis. The dog had marked halitosis with mucopurulent discharge from the eyes. Blood was collected in EDTA for haematological examination. Haemoglobin content, total leucocyte count, neutrophils, lymphocytes and monocytes were 9.6 g%, 14600/cmm, 82%, 16% and 2%, respectively. The haematology was indicative of neutrophillia and anemia.

The dog was treated previously with Thuja® for two months with no improvement. In the TVCC, treatment was started with topical application of Apple cidar vinegar, Podowart (Shalaks Pharmaceuticals) and petroleum jelly. Oral medication included tab. cephalixin @20mg/kg, tab. nimesulide @ 3mg/kg orally for three days, Immunol® (a herbal immunomodulator) orally, supplements like ascorbic acid, vit. B-complex for one month and liver extract for 15 days orally in recommended doses along with eye drops containing tobramycin. Autoimmune therapy was undertaken by injecting intramuscularly with 2 ml of serum from the same bitch and was repeated every three days for a total of five doses. The dog was examined after eight days of treatment. There was no improvement; in fact there was an increase in the size of warts (Fig. 2). Haematology on eighth day revealed that all the parameters were normal except eosinophilia (17%) with high fever (105°F). The bitch was not dewormed for a considerable period of time which could be the possible reason for the increase in the eosinophil count and anaemia. Bitch was kept on

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Fig 1. Oral papillomas on the face of a bitch.



Fig 2. Warts after third week of auto immune therapy.



Fig 3. Recovered bitch after anthiomalin treatment.

same treatment for further two weeks with no improvement. After one month, treatment with inj. lithium antimony thiomalate (Anthiomalin®; each ml contains 60 mg of lithium antimony thiomalate) was started with a total dose of 0.5 ml i.m. and a total of five doses on alternate days were given with 0.5 ml increment on subsequent dosing. The bitch showed fast recovery and there was complete regression of lesions after five doses of Anthiomalin (Fig. 3).

Oral papillomatosis is a common, contagious and self-limiting disease in dogs. However, the present case appeared refractory to conventional treatments. There is a paucity of literature on the use of anthiomalin in the treatment of papillomatosis in dogs. However, the observations in the present case are in accordance with the findings of Kavithaa *et al.* (2014) who reported that anthiomaline was effective in treating 81% papilloma cases in Jersey cattle as against only 70% with Thuja. The present report suggests that lithium antimony thiomalate may give good results, although there is no single reliable therapy for canine oral papillomatosis.

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