

Intestinal Candidiasis in a Siberian Tiger

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Introduction: *Candida* is a normal flora in the intestines of dogs and cats. Infection with a fungus of the genus *Candida* is usually a superficial infection of the moist cutaneous areas of the body and is generally caused by *Candida albicans*. Rarely is there a systemic infection or endocarditis. *Candida* infection usually occurs in immunosuppressed animals. Although there is no information on candidiasis in tigers, it would be similar in aspect to a cat.

Materials and methods: A 2-year-old female Siberian tiger was referred to the Veterinary Medical Center of Chungbuk National University for laboratory examination. Sampling was done under xylazine and ketamin anesthesia. Esophagus and stomach were examined by endoscope. Complete blood count, serum chemistry, and fecal examinations were carried out for diagnosis. Sabraoud dextrose agar and dermatophyte test medium were used to identify etiology.

Results: There were no findings in the endoscopy examination of esophagus and stomach. Microscopic examination of fecal showed yeast-like organisms. Complete blood count and serum biochemistry findings were in the normal range. Cultures of fecal content on Sabraoud dextrose agar and Dermatophyte test medium showed growth of candida-like yeasts and a RapIDTM Yeast Plus test kit (Remel, Apogent CO., USA) showed growth of *Candida* spp. According to the examination results intestinal candidiasis was confirmed. The Siberian tiger was treated with itraconazole for 2 weeks. The clinical signs were completely resolved after treatment.

Clinical relevance: Wild zoo animals are inevitably undertressful conditions. Stressed animals usually become immune suppressed and develop an overgrowth of normal flora and sicken. Although *Candida* spp. are supposedly normal flora in the intestines of tigers, treating veterinarians should be aware of the possibility of candidiasis.

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