

Eosinophilic Dermatitis in a Pygmy Hedgehog

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When many eosinophils invade the skin layer, a syndrome is called as a eosinophilic dermatitis. The cause of this syndrome is poorly understood in exotic animals. Also there is little study about eosinophilic dermatitis in a hedgehog.

A 4-month-old male pygmy hedgehog with inflammatory lesion on chest and vomiting just after eating was referred to the Veterinary Medical Center of Chungbuk National University. In the cytologic examination of the lesion many eosinophils and its granules were observed on the slide without any pathogenic organisms. There was no significant finding in the X-ray examination to check mass invasion or formation. According to these results, this case was diagnosed tentatively as a eosinophilic dermatitis. For therapeutic trial, corticosteroid was given orally and topically.

After the 1 week treatment, size of the lesion was reduced remarkably, but vomiting was persisted. Because the lesion became reduced, only topical corticosteroid was used and restriction of food was prescribed to control vomiting. However vomiting was continued and chest lesion was expanded again after 1 week. And purpura was also occurred in left inguinal region. Corticosteroid was administered orally and topically again. Sucralfate was prescribed to reduce the gastric upset. After 1 week there were improvement in clinical signs of vomiting and chest lesion but purpura was enlarged in 1 week later. Finally, patient was dead by severe subcutaneous bleeding. In eosinophilic dermatitis of hedgehog corticosteroid make improvement in skin lesion similar to other small animals.

Eosinophilic dermatitis was controled by corticosteroid therapy but purpura was not. In human acquired platelet dysfunction by increasing eosinophils was reported as a cause of purpura, but it is not clear in the hedgehog. More studies will be needed to explain relationship between eosinophilic dermatitis and purpura in the hedgehog.

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