

A Case of Intestinal Lymphangiectasia in a Doberman Pinscher

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A 4-year-old, intact female Doberman pinscher weighing 18 kg was presented to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Cheju University. She had a 6-month history of malodorous watery diarrhea and body weight loss (about 10 kg) in spite of good appetite. In view of the normal values for the blood tests on the liver, kidney, pancreas and biliary integrity, the small intestine was considered to be the source of the diarrhea. The severe hypoproteinemia (Hypoalbuminaemia and hypoglobulinaemia) and lymphopenia (3%) were present. In fecal examination, fecal trypsin was detected by fecal film and gelatin digestion test. Intestinal parasite eggs and pathogenic bacteria were not detected. In fat absorption test (corn oil 4ml/kg PO), the patient was not revealed the lipemia during experimental period (4 hours). Plain thoracic and abdominal radiographs failed to reveal any abnormal findings. The lymphangiectasia was the tentative diagnoses proposed. The exploratory laparotomy was done. The intestines were looked to be flaccid and dilated. No signs of inflammation could be seen in the whole intestine, peritoneal cavity, and mesenteric lymph nodes. The jejunum was biopsied and the patient was diagnosed the intestinal lymphangiectasia on histopathologic examination.

The clinical signs recovery followed treatment by prednisolone(2 mg/kg) and dietary(Hill's diet r/d) management.

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