

Treatment of Erythema Multiforme With Human Intravenous Immunoglobulin in a dog.

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Introduction: Erythema multiforme (EM) is uncommon dermatitis in dogs. It may represent a host-specific cell-mediated hypersensitivity reaction induced by various agents, but exact pathogenesis of EM is unknown. EM is characterized by erythematous macules.

Human intravenous immunoglobulin G(hIVIG) is a preparation of normal polyspecific IgG obtained from the plasma of healthy blood donors. Although purified immunoglobulins were initially developed for treatment of primary immunodeficiency syndromes, they have since been documented to be effective in the treatment of some immune-mediated diseases. Blockade of Fc receptors on mononuclear phagocytic cells has been proposed as the most likely mechanism for the rapid early response to hIVIG treatment.

Signalment: A 8-years-old, female Shih-Tzu was referred with one-month history of recent onset of erythema and erosion in ventral flank abdomen, inguinal surface and vulva region that was a poor response to supportive therapy.

Results: She was diagnosed of EM on the base of histopathology. She was administered of prednisolone (2 mg/kg PO bid) and azathioprine (1 mg/kg PO sid) and was applied honey therapy in local lesion. Cutaneous lesion was resolved, but appeared again as tapering to drug dosage. Therefore, hIVIG was infused on 2 consecutive days (1g/kg per day). The treatment of hIVIG resulted in rapid resolution of dermatological signs in this dog.

Clinical relevance: IVIG may be considered in EM of poor response to supportive care, wound management, and conventional immunosuppressive therapy.

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