

## **Combined Cytosine Arabinoside and Prednisolone Therapy for Unknown Meningoencephalitis in 2 Dogs**

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**Signalement :** A Maltese (6-years-old, castrated male) and a Yorkshire Terrier (10-years-old, intact female) were referred for ataxia, circling, depression and anorexia. It was suspected to unknown meningoencephalitis based on neurological signs, computed tomography (CT) / magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) finding, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis.

**Results:** Immunesuppressive dose of corticosteroid was initially chosen to treat in two dogs. The use of prednisolone (PDS) alone was not sufficient to these dogs. The clinical signs were relapsed and side effects were arised including polyuria, polydipsia and abdominal distension. Thus combination of cytosine arabinoside and PDS protocol was tried. With this combination, clinical signs were resolved and side effects were diminished. The PDS of one was tapered to final 0.5 mg/kg and the other was discontinued.

**Clinical relevance:** Recently, treatment using various immunosuppressive drug including cytosine arabinoside, procarbazine, and cyclosporine treatment for unknown meningoencephalitis may result in better long-term outcomes than those previously reported with corticosteroid treatment alone. This case suggested that combined cytosine arabinoside and PDS had efficient to the unknown meningoencephalitis which was not controlled by PDS alone. The combined cytosine arabinoside and PDS protocol is worthy of being applied for unknown meningoencephalitis treatment.

Key words: meningoencephalitis, prednisolone, cytosine arabinoside

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