SAFETY OF A PROACTIVE THERAPY WITH HYDROCORTISONE ACEPONATE (CORTAVANCE®) IN THE EARS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF RECURRENCE OF OTITIS EXTERNA IN ATOPIC DOGS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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RESUMEN CORTO - SHORT SUMMARY

Recurrent otitis externa (OE) is a frequent problem in atopic dogs (AD). A topical twice-weekly application of hydrocortisone aceponate (HCA) in the ear canal is effective in preventing the recurrence of OE. The objective of this study was to evaluate the safety of a long-term intermittent application of HCA (Cortavance®, Virbac, Carros, France) in the ear canal of atopic dogs.

Atopic dogs suffering from OE were included and treated proactively for more than 6 months with twice-weekly applications of at least 0.2 ml of HCA in the ear canal. Subjects were clinically examined, clinical scoring of the ear lesions (OTIS3) and cytological examinations were performed. A blood sample was taken for a complete blood count (CBC) and a biochemistry panel. Furthermore an ACTH stimulation test was performed and cortisol was determined before and one hour after the injection.

Of the 25 dogs included, 15 were treated on 2 separate days in the week and 10 on 2 consecutive days (week-end therapy). They received HCA for 6 to 48 months (mean 13 months) with a median volume of 0.25ml [0.2 to 0.5ml]. The mean OTIS3 score was 1.88. No clinical side effects were observed. 14 dogs had slight clinical signs of atopy (podal erythema, abdominal folliculitis). CBC and biochemical parameters remained within the normal range. Cortisol levels were considered normal (81 nmol/l [24-205] before and 277 nmol/l [148-444] after stimulation).

Proactive therapy with HCA in the ear canal for 6 to 48 months was safe and well tolerated in atopic dogs.

OBJETIVOS DEL TRABAJO / OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Chronic or recurrent otitis externa (OE) is a frequent problem in atopic dogs. Indeed it has been established that up to 90% of dogs suffering from atopic dermatitis (AD) present with OE, and that in some cases OE is the main or only chief complaint of AD (1). Proactive therapy either with topical steroids or topical calcineurin inhibitors is currently considered the treatment of choice in case of chronic lesions of atopic dermatitis in humans, and it has been demonstrated that this approach is also of value and safe for dogs with AD (2). For atopic OE, it was shown in a preliminary study (3) that the topical twice-weekly application of hydrocortisone aceponate (HCA) directly into the ear canal was effective in preventing recurrences or flares of OE: the probability of remaining free of relapse for 6 months was 95% in the treated group (vs 50% in the non-treated group). However the safety of this mode of treatment has not been extensively studied.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the systemic and local safety of a long-term intermittent application of a spray containing 0.584 mg/ml of HCA (Cortavance®, Virbac, Carros, France) in the ear canal of atopic dogs.
MATERIAL Y MÉTODO / MATERIAL AND METHODS

Dogs previously diagnosed with AD and suffering from OE were included and proactively treated for more than 6 months with a twice-weekly application of at least 0.2 ml of HCA in the ear canal. Dogs treated systemically with steroids, ciclosporine, oclacitinib, or treated topically with any medication whatsoever were excluded. At inclusion, the dogs were clinically examined and a clinical scoring of the ear lesions was performed using the OTIS3 scoring system (4). Particular attention was paid to the aspect of the ear epithelium, looking for any sign of atrophy. Cytological examinations were performed and the results were semi-quantitatively scored (5). A blood sample was taken for a complete blood count (CBC) and a biochemistry panel. Furthermore an ACTH stimulation test was performed and cortisol was determined before and one hour after the injection. All the blood samples were sent to a single laboratory (laboratoire Vebio, Arcueil, France). Veterinarians and pet owners were asked to evaluate the global efficacy of the treatment using a 0-3 scale (0 = no efficacy; 3 = complete efficacy). The pet owners were asked to rate the ease of use of the proactive therapy (easy – normal – difficult).

RESULTADOS / RESULTS

25 dogs from 5 dermatology clinics were included (mean age = 5 years [1.5 to 13 years], mean bodyweight = 20kg [7-35kg], 12 females and 13 males). 15 dogs were treated on 2 separate days in the week and 10 on 2 consecutive days in the week (week-end therapy). All but one dog were treated bilaterally. They received HCA in the ear canal for 6 to 48 months (mean 13 months) with a median volume of 0.25ml [0.2 to 0.5ml]. The mean OTIS3 score was 1.88 at the time of examination (= healthy ears). No clinical side effects were observed. 14 dogs had slight clinical signs of atopy (podal erythema, abdominal folliculitis). CBC and biochemical parameters remained within the normal range. Cortisol levels were considered normal (81 nmol/l [24-205] before and 277 nmol/l [148-444] after stimulation). For 88% of the pet owners the twice-weekly application of HCA in the ear canal for more than 6 months was easy to perform. The proactive therapy appeared to be efficacious for both veterinarians (2.72) and pet owners (2.64).

CONCLUSIONES / CONCLUSIONS

This retrospective study on 25 atopic dogs demonstrated that the proactive therapy with HCA in the ear canals for 6 to 48 months was safe and well tolerated.

BIBLIOGRAFÍA /BIBLIOGRAPHY


