

Dermatophilosis and its Therapeutic Management in a Ewe

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Abstract

A one year old ewe was presented with scab and circumscribed lump formation in skin of both upper and lower lips. Clinical diagnosis of dermatophilosis was confirmed by direct microscopic examination of scab material stained with giemsa staining revealed gram-positive cocci that looked like railroad tracks. Animal was treated with two doses of long acting Oxytetracycline @ 20 mg/kg body weight intramuscularly one day apart have showed clinical improvement. One week after therapy, the ewe completely recovered.

Keywords: Dermatophilosis; ovine; treatment

Introduction

Dermatophilosis is an exudative, pustular dermatitis that affects mammals. Among domestic animals, cattle, sheep, goats and horses are affected most frequently and pigs, dogs, cats rarely. Dermatophilosis is caused by bacterium *Dermatophilus congolensis* is a gram-positive, pleomorphic bacteria. It belongs to order of Actinomycetales, family of Dermatophilaceae. The family has a single genus *Dermatophilus*. The members of this family are very special for presenting filamentous structures, which by means of perpendicular branching, transverse septation and longitudinal segmentation in two planes, form packets of coccoid cells (Gordon and Edwards 1963). Spread of disease occurs by direct contact between animals or through exposure to contaminated surroundings (fomites) or by biting insects (vectors) particularly flies and ticks.

History and Clinical findings

A one year old ewe was presented with history of scab formation on lips. Clinical examination revealed circumscribed lumps in skin of both upper and lower lips. Scab material was collected aseptically for microbiological examination.

Diagnosis

Clinical diagnosis of ovine dermatophilosis was made by characteristic clinical finding and microscopic examination of smears from scab material stained by Gram's and Giemsa staining

revealed gram-positive cocci that look like railroad tracks were identified using procedure as described (Pier *et al.*, 1963; Pier, 1967 and OIE, 2004) and confirmed as *Dermatophilus congolensis*.

Treatment and Discussion

Affected animal was treated with two doses of long acting oxytetracycline (Intamycin LA^a) @ 20 mg/kg b.wt intramuscularly alternate day. One week after therapy, the ewe completely recovered. The treatment of dermatophilosis still remains a matter of great concern owing to recurrence of disease and difficulties to cure using antibiotics by parenteral route. Long-acting tetracycline is described to be effective in parenteral treatment of dermatophilosis (Ilemobade *et al.*, 1979).

References

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