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# THERAPEUTIC EVALUATION OF HOMEOPATHIC COMPLEX FOR CANINE ORAL PAPILLOMATOSIS

**Dr. Hemanth Gowda K * ., Dr. Nagaraju N & Dr. Ashwini A**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Physiology & Biochemistry, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hassan, Karnataka 573201
Email: hemannagowda@kvafsu.edu.in, Mob: 9008020862

Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Surgery & Radiology, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Gadag, Karnataka 582102

Assistant Professor,Department of Veterinary Medicine,,Veterinary College, Hassan, Karnataka 573202

Email Id : ashvet.ias@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

The combination of homeopathic drugs (Thuja occidentalis 30 and Nitricum acidum 30) was found to be very effective in the treatment of studied canine oral papillomatosis (COP) case. The complete regression of papilloma lesions was observed in fifteen days after the end of three weeks treatment. Further, no adverse effect was observed during the course and after the treatment. No recurrence of papilloma was observed during the follow-up period of twelve months in treated dog. It proves that these combinations Thuja occidentalis 30 and Nitricum acidum 30 could be used as a potential non-invasive method for the successful treatment of COP which would be alternate to surgical removal or using toxic drugs like vincristine. However, the definitive conclusions could not be established due to the limited number of observations and lack of control group.

KEY WORDS: Oral papillomatosis, Thuja occidentalis, Nitricum acidum

INTRODUCTION

Papillomas or warts in dogs are the benign growths caused by the canine papillomavirus (CPV). They appear as exophylic lesions on the lips and muzzle, typically with a cauliflower-like appearance (Reiter, 2019). Papillomas are most common in young dogs, dogs with a weakened or underdeveloped immune system and may result in rapidly growing and spreading lesions (Williams et al., 2021). Papillomas on the oral mucosa inferring with swallowing is of major concern and signs are seen when the growths interfere with prehension, mastication, or swallowing (Reiter, 2019). Occasionally, if the growths are numerous, the dog may bite them when chewing, causing them to bleed and become infected. The various therapeutic approaches are available for treating canine papillomatosis such as autoimmune therapy, laser therapy, surgical therapy, cryotherapy, photodynamic therapy, intravenous injection of vincristine sulfate/taurolidine/immunoregulin, intramuscular injections of anthiomaline (lithium antimony thiomalate), oral administration of azithromycin, and topical application of fluorouracil/Thuja (Agnihotri et al., 2015). Of late, homeopathic treatment approaches have gained significant interest among veterinarians for treating canine papillomas. With this background, the present study was planned to evaluate the therapeutic effectiveness of homeopathic complex consisting of Thuja occidental is 30x and Nitricum acidum 30x for resolution of warts.

CASE HISTORY &CLINICAL EXAMINATION

Canine patient was a 8 month old, 35 kg healthy male Cocker spaniel dog presented with oral papillomatous lesions on mucocutaneous junction, buccal mucosa, hard palate since 4 weeks. It was treated by local veterinarian with Thujasalbe & immune supplements followed by three doses of Vincristine and azithromycin @10mg for 10 days but no improvement was noticed.Clinical examination of dogs revealed almost normal physiological activity, body temperature, heart rate, respiration rate, and conjunctival mucous membrane. Examination of the oral cavity revealed numerous papillomatous growths protruding from the surface of oral mucous membranes. Papilloma noticed as cauliflower-like growth/warts of varied sizes (up to 2-3 cm in diameter). Warts were grayish-white, pink, and black in color due to pigmentation. Grossly, lesions were characterized by hard vericose, proliferative and hyperkeratotic (Fig. 1). The papilloma had smooth and rough, jagged and crumbling surfaces. Papillomatous lesions had narrow base with a wide projection on the mucosal surface. There was no other associated dermatological abnormality in the dog except oral papilloma lesions.

TREATMENT &DISCUSSION

Oral papillomatosis are self limiting transmissible caused by canine papilloma viruses in young dogs (Balduci, 2007).

Macroscopically, regressing papillomatous lesions darkens in colour and becomes dryer, fingers of papilloma open and lesions shrink (Head et al., 2002). The treatment with homeopathic Thuja occidentalis 30x, bid daily one drop on the tongue for three days and further continuation with Nitricum acidum 30x, daily one drop, continue both for three weeks was advocated. The review of the conditions was evaluated fifteen days after the end of treatment. The significant reduction in size of the larger warts was noted in a week with softening of the tissue and complete resolution was observed in fifteen days after the end of treatment (Fig. 2). As of one year post-treatment, the warts remain completely resolved and no new lesions have formed. No adverse effects during treatment were noted other than the dog owner noting increased lethargy of the dog during treatment.

Homeopathy as an alternative therapy at affordable prices is becoming increasingly popular in human medicine in developing countries. Similarly, in veterinary medicine also, much emphasis is being relayed on homeopathic drugs. This case series supports the evidence of the antiviral activity and therapeutic value of Thuja occidentalis and Nitricum acidumin treating COP. These homeopathy drugs have been used in human medicine for long. None of the homeopathic drugs used in this study have been proven to cause any side effect. It has been already proved that Thuja (T. occidentalis) has immunomodulatory and antiviral properties which cause B and T lymphocyte proliferation and differentiation into CD4+ cells and induces production of interleukin (IL)-2, IL-1, IL-6, tumor necrosis factor-a, and interferon-γ production in vitro and in vivo (Raj *et al*., 2020). The findings are compatible with the some authors in the use of Thuya occidentalis to the papillomatosis treatment (Veena et al., 2011; Marins et al., 2006). Likewise, Madrewar and Glencross [22] have stated the use of different combinations of homeopathy drugs against all kinds of dermatitis, ringworm, wet or dry eczema and to remove warts of all types on any part of the animal body. In contrary Agnihotri et al. (2005) reported that treating canine oral papilloma with Thuja alone for 2 months was not effective. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fuming nitric acid (topical) was used for the treatment of animal bites. Dilute nitric acid solution is used for the treatment of skin lesions. In animals, diluted nitric acid (33.4%) produced erythematous reaction in 15 to 45 min. Vali and Ferdowsi (2007), reviewed and reported that non-pharmacological techniques such as chemical destruction with acids (acetic acid, lactic acid, nitric acid, salicylic acid or trichloroacetic acid) are frequently used for the treatment of warts Nitric acid is a caustic and causes the destruction of tissue by tissue denaturation; therefore, they are used in treatment of hyperkeratosis or hyperplastic tissue (Parasuraman, 2016). Nitricum acidum could be used on large warts with jagged border which bleeds on washing (Boericke, 2011).

Fig 1. Cauliflower-like Papillomatous warts around oral mucous membranes.

Fig 2. Complete warts resolution with Thuja occidentalis 30x

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