Oral presentations

Impact of a terbinafine-florfenicol-betamethasone acetate otic gel on the quality of life of dogs with acute otitis and their owners

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OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the improvement of quality of life (QoL) of dogs with otitis externa treated with terbinafine-florfenicol-betamethasone acetate otic gel and of their owners, as well as of clinical and cytological parameters; to compare them to controls treated with a reference protocol based on bi-weekly ear washings and daily drops.

METHODS

Fifty client-owned dogs with otitis externa were randomly divided into two groups and treated for two weeks. Veterinarians treated dogs in Group A with terbinafine-florfenicol-betamethasone acetate gel twice, one week apart, and owners treated dogs in Group B with daily posaconazole-orbifloxacin-mometasone furoate ear drops and twice-weekly ear washings. Veterinarians evaluated otitis clinically with the OTI-5 scale and cytologically with a validated semiquantitative method on day 0, 7, 14 and 28. At each visit, owners assessed QoL with a validated questionnaire and pruritus with a visual analogue scale. Scores before and after treatment for each group and differences between groups were statistically analysed.

RESULTS

In both groups, all parameters improved significantly. There was a significantly higher percentage improvement of dog's and owner's QoL in Group A compared to Group B at all timepoints ($p < 0.05$), with exception of owner's QoL at Day 28. There was no difference in improvement of OTI-5 at any timepoint, while Group A cytological scores improved significantly better on day 7 ($p = 0.0026$) and 14 ($P = 0.489$) and pruritus on day 7 ($p = 0.0294$).

STATEMENT

Terbinafine-florfenicol-betamethasone acetate gel provides equivalent efficacy but higher quality of life to dogs and owners than reference protocols for the treatment of otitis externa.

Demodicosis in dogs: prevalence and clinical management

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OBJECTIVES

Demodicosis is a chronic canine skin disease with substantial welfare implications. Current literature regarding this condition is rarely reflective of the wider dog population. This study investigated the prevalence and clinical management of canine demodicosis in primary-care UK practices.

METHODS

Data were extracted from primary-care cases within the VetCompass database. Potential cases recorded with a final diagnosis of demodicosis (or synonym) or receiving treatment for demodicosis during 2013 were identified using specific search terms, then screened manually for verification and further information extraction.

RESULTS

788 demodicosis cases were confirmed from 455,557 study dogs – an overall prevalence of 0.17% (95% CI 0.16–0.18%). Breeds most commonly affected were Staffordshire Bull Terrier (27.2%), crossbreed (20.0%) and Pug (6.7%). Purebreds comprised 80.0% of cases and 52.3% were male.

Mean age at first diagnosis was 1.9 years. Most cases (73.5%) had multiple skin lesions. Pruritus was recorded in 60.0% of cases. The most common diagnostic test was a skin scrape alone (64.1%); the most frequently used treatment was imidacloprid/moxidectin spot-on solution (31.9%). Within the available records, 24.6% resolved in clinical signs but were recommended continued testing and/or treatment and 22.2% of cases were deemed to have resolved completely. Sixty-six dogs died within the available records, with demodicosis contributing in 15/66 (22.7%).

STATEMENT

The power of Big Data analyses from VetCompass allows greater understanding of primary-care caseloads and management which can assist clinicians to benchmark and audit their own clinical care. This study highlights the welfare significance of demodicosis based on severity (pruritus) and duration.