Oral presentations

vet being “on the right track” — was better, with kappa = 0.88. It is impossible to attribute the small, residual disagreement to being remote from the patient, so this study is evidence that remote diagnosis of canine skin conditions is likely to be effective and safe.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study demonstrates that i) the global animal welfare problem can be tackled through remote care on digital devices, and ii) there is great potential for vets to work at home, accommodating family commitments.

Canine erythematoceruminous otitis: clinical, microbiological, lipid and cytokine characteristics

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OBJECTIVES

Erythematoceruminous otitis (ECO) is the most common type of otitis seen in canine practice. The objective was to identify and quantify several parameters of ECO including the infectious components but also the cytokine and lipid profile of such ear canals.

METHODS

Forty canine ear canals with ECO of otherwise healthy dogs, not under any type of aural treatment or cleaning for 7 days were assessed with OTIS3 score and a 0–4 scale cytology score. Bacterial cultures were performed. Aural surface concentrations of a panel of 13 cytokines/chemokines were measured using multiplex analyses (Milliplex Canine Cytokine Panel). Lipid profile of the exudate was analysed with gas chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry.

RESULTS

Ear canals had a median OTIS3 score of 3 [1–6] and a median cytology score of 2 [2–3], with *Malassezia* yeast (40/40), coccoid (9/40) or rod-shaped bacteria (4/40) overgrowth. Positive bacterial cultures (19/39) principally yielded *Clostridium perfringens* (7/39), *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (6/39) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (4/39). High concentrations of interleukin 8 were detected (mean 712 pg/mL [normal range 75–237]; keratinocyte-derived chemokine-like concentrations were considered normal (mean 171 pg/mL [normal range 89–170]). Free forms of lipids (fatty aldehydes, fatty acids, long-chain alcohols) were relatively more abundant than in normal ears whereas bound forms, in particular waxes and short-chain cholesteryl esters, were less abundant.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

In this cohort, ECO was characterised by *Malassezia* overgrowth combined with bacteria in about 30% of cases. Cytokines/chemokines and lipid profiles were modified compared to normal ears.

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