



Clinico - Therapeutic management of Sarcoptic mange in a Rabbit

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Abstract

In the present study a rabbit was presented with the clinical signs of alopecia, intense itching, erythema, scabby and dry crusty lesions on both ear margins. Skin scrapings revealed *Sarcoptes scabiei* mites. Treatment was done with subcutaneous injection of Ivermectin @ 400 mcg/kg b.wt at weekly intervals for 3 weeks. Supportive therapy with Zincovit drops @ 6 drops twice a day was given for early recovery. After three weeks, clinical examination revealed marked improvement of lesions and scrapings were negative for mites.

Keywords: Rabbit, Intense itching, Sarcoptic mange, Ivermectin.

Introduction

Dermatological problems are one of the most common clinical entities in domestic pets and fur bearing animals (Deshmukh et al., 2010). Among dermatological problems mite infestation is one of the most common and major constraint in rabbits (Darzi et al., 2007). It is most obstinate, persistent and zoonotically important contagious disease (Kumar et al., 2002). Clinically it is characterized by pruritis, alopecia and prolonged illness and death due to cachexia (Roy et al., 2001). The present report is about the successful management of *Sarcoptes* infection in a rabbit.

Case history and Observations

A rabbit was presented to veterinary dispensary with the history of alopecia, severe pruritus, erythematous, scabby and dry crusty lesions on both ear margins (Fig. 1). The rabbit was found positive for Pinna-pedal reflex. Both deep and superficial skin scrapings

were collected from ear margins for microscopic examination which revealed large number of *Sarcoptes scabiei* mites under low power objective (Fig. 2). Based on the history, clinical and microscopic examination of skin scrapings *Sarcoptes* infection was confirmed.

Treatment and Discussion

The affected rabbit was treated with Ivermectin at the rate of 400 µg/kg body weight, subcutaneously at weekly intervals for three weeks. Zincovit was also administered orally as 6 drops twice a day. There was marked improvement in skin lesions after three weeks of treatment. The deep skin scrapings taken from the same site revealed absence of mites after three weeks of treatment. At the same time, clinical signs like alopecia and intense itching were also reduced completely.



Fig. 1 Picture showing crusty and scabby lesions on ear margins.

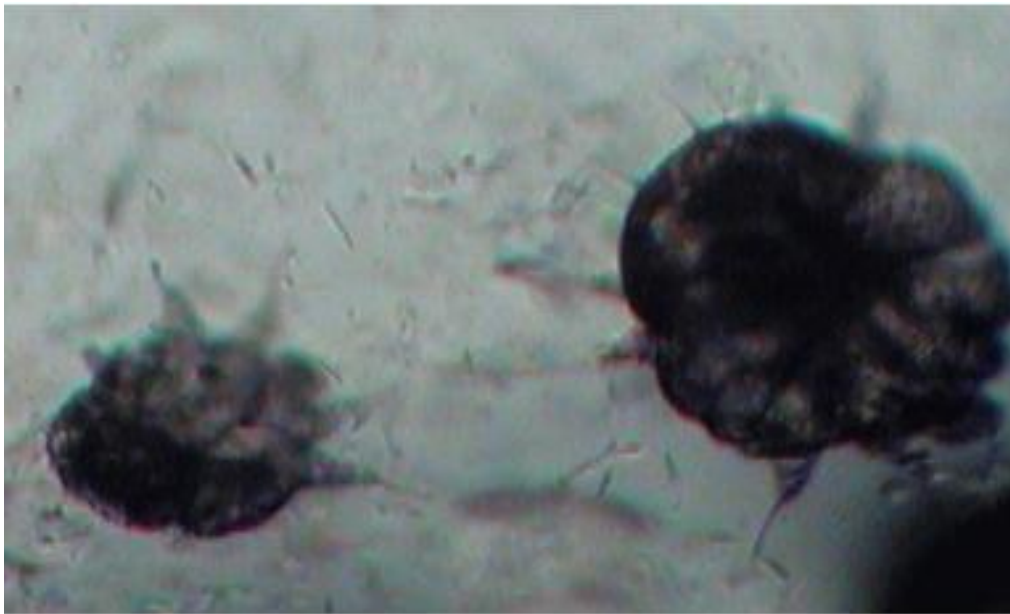


Fig. 2 Skin scrapings showing *Sarcoptes scabiei* mites.

Deshmukh et al. (2010) and Bhardwaj et al. (2012) also reported *Sarcoptes scabiei* infection in rabbits and it is distinguished by presence or absence of pruritus and morphology of mite. Diagnosis is generally confirmed by skin scrapings and Ivermectin @ 300 – 400 µg/kg body weight, subcutaneously is effective in controlling scabies in rabbits (Birchard and Sherding, 2000). Indiscriminate use of organophosphorous compounds against mange infestation may prove hazardous in terms of residual effect (Dakshinkar and Sarcode, 2000). Kumar et al. (2000) used Ivermectin as an alternative to organophosphorous compounds @

200 µg/kg body weight, subcutaneously. In the present study we used Ivermectin @ 400 µg/kg body weight, subcutaneously and treated successfully.

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