

A Retrospective Study in 18 Cases : Allergen Specific Immunotherapy (ASIT) in Canine Atopic Dermatitis

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Introduction: In recent years several studies have described the efficacy of ASIT in canine atopic dermatitis (CAD), which is not associated with the adverse reactions commonly caused by the administration of glucocorticoids and is more effective than antihistamines, fatty acids or shampoo therapy.

Materials and methods: Eighteen dogs were treated with ASIT for at least 9 month based on the results of intradermal skin test (IDST) in Konkuk university veterinary teaching hospital from 2004 to 2006.

Results: The average age of the dogs when the disease began was 13.2 month, and when the dogs were referred was 4.7 years. 70.6% of the dogs had no seasonality in clinical signs. The average numbers of positive reactions on IDST was 4.1. The allergens which were used in immunotherapy were house dust (55.6%), house dust mites (27.8%), moulds (61.1%), pollen (11.1%), and miscellaneous allergens (16.7%). The average time of response in ASIT was 3.2 month. Excellent (i.e. hyposensitization alone controlled clinical signs), good (>50% improvement), moderate (<50% improvement) and no response (clinical signs were unchanged) were seen in 44.5, 27.8, 16.7 and 5.6%, respectively.

Clinical relevance: ASIT has been very effective on CAD and no significant difference between response and age, seasonality, numbers of positive reactions on IDST, and kinds of allergen in therapy.

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