Injection-Acupuncture with Bee-venom (Apitoxin) for Treatment of Canine Dermatitis

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The present study was performed in order to elucidate the therapeutic effect by injection-acupuncture with apitoxin for treatment of canine bacterial dermatitis. Total 8 mongrel dogs (2 to 3 years old, B.W. 2.3~5.2 kg) with bacterial dermatitis caused by *Staphylococcus* spp were used in the present study. The experimental animals were divided into 2 groups as control (antibiotics group: 4 dogs) and experimental group (apitoxin group: 4 dogs). Bathing with shampoo was basically applied twice per week in all groups. The most sensitive antibiotics (amikacin, 20 mg/kg, IM) were administered once per day for 2 weeks in antibiotics group. On the other hand, injection-acupuncture (AP) with apitoxin (200 μg/head, apitoxin : 2% lidocaine = 1:1) was applied at the acupoints such as BL13, BL40, GV14, ST36, LI04, LI11 and SP06, once per day for 2 weeks in apitoxin group. The changes of clinical symptoms with treatment were assessed by using clinical scores during experimental periods. Total WBC counts and neutrophil/lymphocyte (N/L) ratios were analyzed on pre, 1 wk and 2 wks. Histopathological changes with each treatment were examined on pre and 2 wks in each group. The clinical score showed significant decreasing pattern on 1wk ($p<0.05$) and 2wks ($p<0.05$) after treatment within groups, compared by that of pre-treatment, respectively. However, significance was not detected between groups. As for the change of total WBC and N/L ratio, significances were not detected within and between groups, respectively. In addition, improvement of the skin lesions with each treatment was histopathologically demonstrated. Injection-AP with apitoxin was effective for treatment of canine bacterial dermatitis. Further, it was suggested that apitoxin might be used as an alternative method to antibiotics for treatment of canine bacterial dermatitis.

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