Trial of Diltiazem on Dystrophic Calcinosis Cutis in a Dog

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Signalment: A Chihuahua (8-year-old, intact female) was referred for symmetric, multifocal alopecia and excessive crust formation on the dorsum, bilateral flank, gluteal region and inguinal area. In the tape strip test of skin, just small number of cocci and degenerated neutrophil was seen.

Results: It was diagnosed to have dystrophic calcinosis cutis secondary to hyperadrenocorticism based on clinical signs, physical examination, laboratory screening tests(CBC, serum chemistry, ACTH-stimulation test and High dose dexamethasone suppression test), diagnostic imaging(radiography, ultrasonography) and histopathologic examination. Diltiazem which is a Ca channel blocker was medicated to decrease dystrophic calcinosis cutis with Trilostane for treatment of the underlying disease hyperadrenocorticism. There was decreasing of crust and calcium infiltration and improvement of alopecia during the medication about 5 months long.

Clinical relevance: Diltiazem is well known as an antihypertensive agent but is recently used to improve dermatologic symptoms in human medicine. In this case report, there was positive response and it is considered that Diltiazem has a value to try for treatment of calcinosis cutis.

Key words: diltiazem, calcinosis cutis, hyperadrenocorticism, dog

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