

Clinical Trial of Finasteride on Alopecia X in a Dog

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Signalment: A Pomeranian (5-year-old, intact male) was referred for multifocal alopecia especially in dorsal and bilateral flank region. In the physical examination, there was pigmentation and excessive scales on the alopecic lesion. The result of CBC was normal and serum chemistry reveal mild increase of calcium and albumin. In the basic skin test, there was no significant finding. Additional laboratory screening test (ACTH-stimulation test, sex hormone estimation) and biopsy was done.

Result: There was follicular keratosis and epidermal hyperkeratosis in the histopathologic examination. In the additional screening test, the result of ACTH-stimulation test was in normal range. And testosterone estimation level was high. On the basis of these results, the dog was diagnosed as sex hormone relating alopecia X. Finasteride was medicated to improve the symptom of alopecia. There was regrowth of hair and the pigmentation of alopecic lesion was decreased.

Clinical relevance: Finasteride was developed for treatment of prostatic hypertrophy. But during the stage of clinical research, it was detected to have additional effect in reproducing hair. The most effective treatment of alopecia X related with sex hormone is castration. But the medication of finasteride is also effective. If the owner doesn't want castration, finasteride can be considered as the second option.

Key words: finasteride, sex hormone, alopecia X, dog

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