

But It Itches: Idiopathic Ulcerative Dermatitis

Feline idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis is a rare skin disease characterized by a non-healing ulcerative lesion on the dorsal neck or between the scapulae caused by unremitting self trauma. Prognosis is poor because the lesions do not respond to medical treatment and are often too extensive for surgical resection. After an extensive medical and dermatological evaluation, idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis was diagnosed in a cat (2 years of age). In this case report, a diagnosis of neuropathic pain was made and the cat underwent unsuccessful treatment with gabapentin, pregabalin, and phenobarbital. The cat did respond to topiramate (5

mg/kg PO q12h); improvement was seen within 2 weeks, and the lesion was in remission by the end of 4 weeks. Remission continued for 30 months as of study publication; withdrawal from the drug resulted in relapse within 24 hours both times it was attempted.

■ Commentary

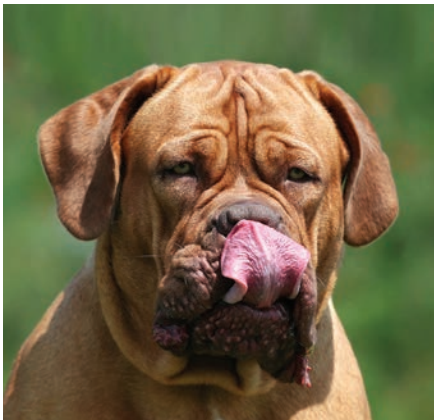
This rare condition is a diagnosis of exclusion. In almost all cases referred to me, an underlying cause (eg, allergies, bacterial or fungal infection, *Demodex gatoi*, neoplasia) is found. Although skin biopsy findings cannot confirm the diagnosis, it is important for ruling out other differential

diagnoses. Currently, the underlying cause is believed to be neuropathic pain, thus the relatively rapid response to topiramate. Neuropathic pain is poorly understood and hard to explain to clients; however, they might understand the example of post-amputation pain reported in humans.—Karen A. Moriello, DVM, DACVD

■ ■ Source

Topiramate in the management of feline idiopathic ulcerative dermatitis in a two-year-old cat. Grant D, Rusbridge C. *VET DERMATOL* 25:226-e60, 2014.

Treating Nasal Capillariasis in Dogs



Capillaria boehmi, a capillarid nematode, infects the nasal and sinus cavities of wild and domestic dogs. Although rare in pet dogs, nasal capillariasis (NC) is a potentially emerging infection in temperate areas of the Americas and Europe. Clinical signs include sneezing, nasal discharge, and epistaxis, and there is no approved treatment.

This pilot trial investigated the safety and efficacy of a spot-on formulation of 10% imidacloprid and 2.5% moxidectin for treating naturally occurring NC in dogs.

Sixteen dogs with *C boehmi* eggs present on fecal examination were included. Diagnosis of NC was confirmed either via rhinoscopy or species-specific PCR on fecal specimens. Dogs were randomly divided into 2 groups; group T ($n = 8$) was treated, group C ($n = 8$) received no treatment. Dogs were retested for *C boehmi* on day 28 via fecal floatation and either rhinoscopy or species-specific PCR. Seven of 8 dogs in group T tested negative on day 28; all group-C dogs had persistent infection. One group-T dog was persistently infected on day 28 (± 2 days) and was retreated, testing negative on day 56. Seven patients in group C were given a rescue dose of the spot-on formulation on day 28 and subsequently tested negative for *C boehmi* on day 56. The authors concluded that 10% imidacloprid and 2.5% moxidectin spot-on is a promising treatment for naturally occurring NC in dogs. *Study funded by Bayer Animal Health.*

■ Commentary

The causative agent of NC, *C boehmi* is potentially spreading in the Americas and

Europe, resulting in symptomatic infections. Although subclinical infection is possible, patients that do show signs may exhibit sneezing, reverse sneezing, nasal discharge, and decreased scenting ability. Aberrant migration is possible, resulting in meningoencephalitis. The majority of dogs in this study cleared the infection after a single dose of imidacloprid-moxidectin. Further study is needed to more accurately define the safety, efficacy, and possible preventive effects of long-term administration, as infected dogs are at risk for reinfection.—Chris Adolph, DVM, MS

■ ■ Source

A pilot trial evaluating the efficacy of a 10% imidacloprid/2.5% moxidectin spot-on formulation in the treatment of natural nasal capillariasis in dogs. Veronesi F, Morganti G, Di Cesare A, et al. *VET PARASITOL* 200:133-138, 2014.

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