

Case of Multiple Bacterial Pustules in a Male Captive Elephant Calf

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INTRODUCTION:

A male elephant calf in the captive elephant camp developed eruptions all over the body in month of March, 2020. These eruptions gradually turned into pustules containing yellow coloured pus.

AIM:

To do the differential diagnosis and provide the drug of choice for treating the confirmed diagnosed disease.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

All the vital parameters of the elephant calf were recorded and documented on daily basis. Various biological samples like blood, serum, urine, faeces, conjunctival swab, nasal swab, oral swab, pustule crust and pus from the pustule were collected at weekly interval and investigations done were haematology, serology, skin scraping test, faecal examination, routine urine examination, pus culture & antibiotic sensitivity test and test for COVID-19. Differential diagnosis was done with Elephant pox and COVID-19

RESULTS:

Pyrexia was not present in the elephant calf and other vital parameters were also normal. Trunk and perianal region were full of various different sized pustules. 1-2 pustules were also present on the eye lids. A number of pustules were present on the back side of the ears and very few pustules were present on other parts of the body. The antiviral and antibiotic (as per antibiotic sensitivity test) and anti-inflammatory medication was provided for 15 days along with good and fluid infusions. The calf recovered fully after one month.

CONCLUSIONS:

As the test for elephant pox and COVID-19 were negative and the swab culture show growth of E.coli & Pseudomonas putida, it was diagnosed as a case of multiple pustules due to the mentioned two bacteria.

KEYWORDS:

Elephant Pox, Pustules, Microbial Culture

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Aditi Sharma is a Senior Veterinary Officer in a Tiger Reserve in India with a specialisation in Advanced Wildlife Management. She had completed her Bachelors in Veterinary Sciences in 2001 & Masters in Veterinary Surgery & Radiology in 2004. She is a person with very high operational excellence. She has successfully completed 6 International Wildlife Courses, presented 16 papers in National & 11 papers in International Conferences. She has received 12 awards till date. She is an Author of 2 articles and Co-author of 2 publications & one Gene Bank submission. She has taken the oath to ensure Health & Welfare of animals and do value the lives of human beings at par at the same time. She has an experience of almost 2 decades & treat her patients with great love & care. She is known to mitigate human wildlife conflict with great courage & humanity. She is Life Member/Member of 12 International & National Associations/Committee. Additionally she contributes in social programs for Women Empowerment & women Safety.