## **20**th Annual Congress of the ESVD - ECVD

## PROCEEDINGS

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## ANTI-ALLERGIC SHAMPOO AND ORAL ESSENTIAL FATTY ACID COMBINATION THERAPY TO RELIEVE SIGNS OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN DOGS: A BLINDED, PREDNISOLONE-CONTROLLED TRIAL

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The efficacy of Allermyl® shampoo (Virbac) and Megaderm® (Virbac) oral essential fatty acid (EFA) emulsion in reducing signs of canine atopic dermatitis (CAD) was evaluated by reference to oral prednisolone therapy. Sixty-one dogs, diagnosed with CAD according to revised Willemse criteria, were included in the study after negative elimination diet trials and treatment of previous infections. Thirty-five dogs were randomly allocated to 6 weeks of daily oral EFA intake and shampoo therapy (two baths in the first week then once weekly). The other twenty-six dogs were prescribed prednisolone (0.5 mg kg-1 once daily in the first week, then every other day for 3 weeks); glucocorticoid treatment was discontinued in the last 2 weeks. Erythema, excoriation and lichenification were graded at 12 different sites spanning the whole body surface, according to an extent-severity scale, to calculate an aggregate lesional score (LICAD). Pruritus was evaluated on six body areas according to a frequency-intensity scale, generating an aggregate pruritus score (PICAD). Lesions and pruritus decreased significantly from day 0 to day 42 with both treatments (repeated-measures ANOVAs, P<0.0001, NCSS). Allermyl®+Megaderm® reduced LICAD and PICAD by 29.2%/37.3% and 28.4%/37.9% respectively on days 14/28, half to two-thirds the improvement recorded with prednisolone (51.4%/ 53.8% and 58.9%/56%). Clinical signs eventually levelled between groups on day 42 (P>0.05), 2 weeks after cessation of glucocorticoid therapy. Frequency of infections requiring specific treatment, weight gain and polyuria-polydipsia were 14.3%/8.6%/0% with shampoo-EFA combination and 30.8%/ 53.8%/50% with prednisolone. Tolerance of the shampoo-EFA combination regime was better rated by dog owners (Visual-Analog-Scale, P=0.0003). Funding: Virbac SA

17