20TH Proceedings of North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum

April 6 - 10, 2005
Sarasota, Florida

Published through the Support of
Hill's Pet Nutrition

The efficacy of an antiseptic and microbial anti-adhesive ear cleanser in the reduction of clinical signs and infection in dogs with otitis externa

C.A. Rème[1], D. Pin[2], C. Collinot[3], M.C. Cadiergues[4], J. Joyce[5], J. Fontaine[6]

[1]Medical Department, Virbac Laboratories, Carros, France
[2]Dermatology Unit, Ecole Vétérinaire de Lyon, Marcy L'Etoile, France
[3]Clinique Vétérinaire du Roc, Chatterelault, France
[4]Dermatology Unit, Ecole Vétérinaire de Toulouse, France and Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, The Royal Veterinary College, Herts, UK
[5]Croft Veterinary Clinic, Blyth, UK
[6]Clinique Vétérinaire Brugmann, Brussels, Belgium

Abstract: The study evaluated a new antimicrobial ear cleanser for the treatment of bacterial and yeast ear infection in dogs. Forty-five dogs with erythemato-ceruminous or purulent otitis externa were included in the trial. Exclusion criteria were non-infectious or end-stage ear disease, ruptured tympanic membrane and recent treatment. Dogs were randomly allocated to 2 treatment groups: Epiotic (21 dogs) or Epiotic New Generation (Virbac SA, France) (24 dogs). Products were blinded as to their identity. Ear cleansing was performed twice a day for 2 weeks. The new Epiotic contained salicylic acid, sodium docusate, PCMX, EDTA and a combination of monosaccharides with microbial lectin-binding properties in a pH balanced, propylene glycol free excipient. No other treatment was allowed. Quantity of exudate in ears, aural erythema, stenosis, excoriation and odor, as well as pain, ear scratching and head shaking were graded on a 4-point severity scale on days 0 (baseline), 7 and 14 (end-point). *Malassezia*, coccal and rod populations were also recorded by ear swab cytology. Clinical/discomfort scores were reduced by 63.3%/74.7% and 63.4%/73.7% with Epiotic and Epiotic NG respectively over the study period ($P < 0.001$, Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, NCSS software). 64.1% and 68.1% of ears were determined free of infection (< 4 *Malassezia* and cocci and <1 rod / microscopic field, Gx1000 oil immersion) after 2-week treatment with Epiotic and Epiotic NG respectively. No statistical difference was detected between the treatment groups for the reduction of clinical signs or the number of organisms per microscopic field at end-point. No adverse event was reported.

This study was supported by Virbac Laboratories