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Sarcoptic mange in a rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*): A case report

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Abstract

A 2-year-old, rabbit, weighing around 500g, was presented to Veterinary Clinical Complex, Jabalpur (M.P.) with a history that the rabbit was having certain lesions around the eyes and in elbow region, also they complained about hair fall since few days. Clinical examination revealed poor body coat, crusty lesions around the eyes, lips, feet, intense pruritis and shaking of head. The crusts were scaly in nature. Therapeutic management was done with Inj. Ivermectin @ 0.2-0.4 mg/kg body wt. SC at weekly intervals for 4 weeks, followed by Syrup Rabbit M @ 0.2 ml P.O. for 15 days. The Rabbit recovered healthily after the treatment.

Keywords: Crusty lesions, sarcoptic mange, ivermectin, treatment, case report

Introduction

Sarcoptic mange or scabies is very commonly encountered in dogs, but is now one of the frequently being diagnosed case in many rabbits. It is highly contagious in nature and can easily spread from the infected ones to a healthy one through direct contact. Rabbits are very sensitive to any sort of medication we use. They also have a peculiar diet that has to be followed for their healthy life. Hence, Ivermectin use must be according to the correct dosage and along with that certain supportive therapy is must. Vitamin supplements and a constant check on the diet will help for the early recovery. Maintenance of a clean and hygienic environment are must for the rabbits. There often occurs intense pruritis, self-excoriations, alopecia. In some cases, severe crusty lesions are also seen.

Case History

2-year-old, male rabbit was presented in the VCC, College of Veterinary Science & A.H., Jabalpur and M.P. with a history of anorexia, intense itching, and hair fall.

Clinical Examination

On further examination, it was seen that there was intense pruritis with alopecia. There were dry crusty lesions around the eyes, lips and elbow regions. Excoriations were also seen as a result of intense pruritis.

Diagnosis

For proper diagnosis, skin scrapping has to be conducted in order to confirm sarcoptes. Skin scrapping of both superficial and deep skin tissues are must. Using a scalpel, first there is a need for collection of skin scrapings from areas around the nose, lips ears, elbow and foot. After collection of the sample, it was mixed in 5 ml of 10% Potassium hydroxide (KOH) (Raikwar *et al.*, 2021)^[3]. Then the sample was examined under low power microscope and it revealed lots of *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite. Further diagnosis was made on the basis of history and clinical signs like skin lesions at particular sites of the body and alopecia. The morphological analysis is very essential to differentiate other mites of rabbits.

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These are distinguished on the basis of microscopic evaluation (Radi, 2004) [2].

Treatment

As *Sarcoptes* and *Demodex* are sensitive to Ivermectin, the drug used here was the same. Ivermectin at the dose of 700 mcg subcutaneously was injected (Raikwar *et al*, 2021) [3]. Further, supportive therapy with an ointment named Almizole was advised to apply topically over the skin lesions. Topical application of betadine (Povidone iodine) on the bleeding lesions was applied. Syrup Vengrow (multivitamin) 3 drops BD for 15 days was advised. Injectable Ivermectin was repeated on weekly basis for 4 weeks. Improvement was seen after the 2nd dose itself.

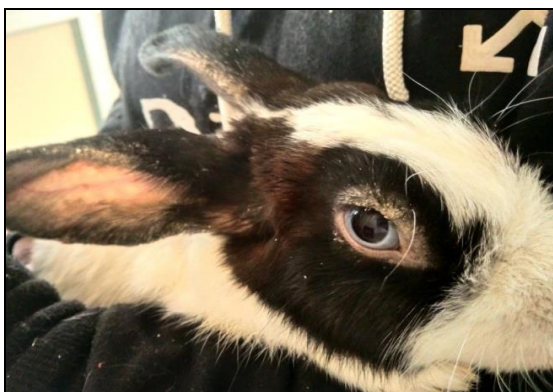


Fig 1: Before Treatment

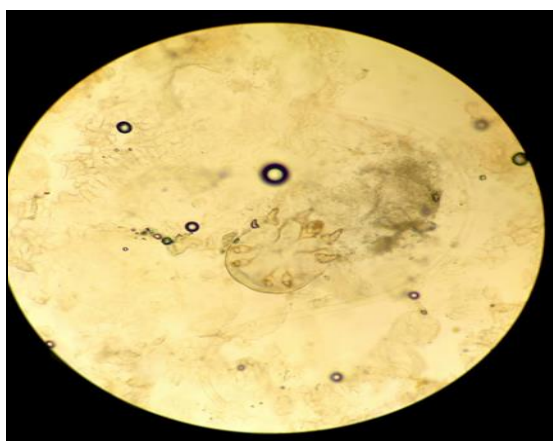


Fig 2: Confirmatory microscopic finding of *Sarcoptes scabiei*



Fig 3: After Treatment

Conclusion

Sarcoptes infestation in rabbits is one of the most commonly encountered disorder and it needs a proper treatment at time. Ivermectin belonging to the class of Avermectins is

considered the drug of choice. Ivermectin bind to GABA gated chloride ion channels in the nervous system and cause their destruction (Aulakh *et al.*, 2003) [1]. No mites were detected on microscopic examination of the skin scrapping post treatment.

Conflict of interest: There is no conflict between the authors.

Ethical approval: This study strictly follows the ethical guidelines established by Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur and Madhya Pradesh.

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Not available

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