

Homeopathic treatment of aural hematoma in a Labrador dog: A case report

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Abstract

Aural hematoma is mostly managed by surgical intervention and chances of recurrences are quite common. Therefore, finding alternative therapies for clinical management is the need of hour. The objective of this study is to report successful management of aural hematoma in a 13-year-old Labrador male dog by use of homeopathic medicines viz. *Arnica montana 6C* and *Hamamelis virginiana 200C*. The animal revealed a favourable response by 14th day of the treatment and complete resolution was observed on 28th day. This therapeutic protocol used was conclusive and it reestablished the normal shape of external ear with no deformities post-treatment. Hence, homeopathic treatment can be considered as an alternative therapy for clinical management of aural hematoma in canine patients.

Keywords: Aural hematoma, Veterinary Homeopathy, alternative therapy

Aural hematoma, also known as auricular hematoma, is a pathology that often affects the external ear of dogs and, rarely, of cats (Evangelista *et al.*, 2012 and Silva *et al.*, 2018). Dogs with pendulous ears, as well as adult and elderly patients appear to be more susceptible to this condition (Rosychuk and Merchant, 1994). The presence of affections involving the hearing system, which result in abrupt head movements due to the pain, pruritus, or otitis appear to trigger the aural hematoma in dogs (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2016). In general, smaller sized aural hematomas are self-limiting because, in the natural evolution of the disease, fluid reabsorption and healing occur. However, the disease resolution is slow, and fibrosis may occur in the healing process, which increases the thickness and, consequently, the deformation of the ear (Marignac, 2005).

The treatment of aural hematoma varies, and different therapies are available for its clinical improvement. Surgical procedures are those with the highest incidence. However, the results are not always satisfactory in general (Johnson *et al.*, 2015). According to several authors, regardless of the therapy used, the treatment of aural hematomas should be performed as early as possible after diagnosis to prevent the extension of the lesion or the deformation of the ear, secondary to fibrosis (Krahwinkel, 2003). Clinical therapy may be indicated in most cases, and homeopathic medicines are considered as good alternative, with no need for drainage of the hematoma or surgical procedures (Reddy *et al.*,

1992). The present case report puts on record successful therapeutic management of bilateral aural hematoma in a Labrador dog using Homeopathy medicines.

Case history and Observations

A 13 year old male Labrador, weighing 39 kg was presented via telephonic conversation (video conference) from Surrey, Vancouver, Canada with the complaint of gradually increasing bulge on inner aspect of both ear pinna (Fig. 1) leading to head tilt, restlessness and reduced appetite. The dog had no previous history of otitis externa. History revealed that the issue started around two weeks back but swelling increased drastically within last four days. Based on history and clinical findings, clinical diagnosis of bilateral aural hematoma was arrived, and the owner was advised for surgical intervention for faster recovery but owner refused to opt for surgery due to the old age of the patient.

Hence, it was planned to manage this condition with alternative therapy - homeopathy medicines. *Arnica montana 6C* and *Hamamelis Virginia 200C* 04 drops each were prescribed twice daily on alternate days for 8 days. The owner reported that swelling of ears has reduced to some extent by 7th day and it was advised to administer *Arnica montana 6C* twice daily for 7 days while *Hamamelis virginiana 200C* was reduced to once daily on alternate days for 7 days. By the end of 2nd week, haematoma regressed to a larger extent without any deformity in the ear pinna. Hence, further medication was stopped, and the owner was advised to consult again

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Fig 1: Clinical appearance of right and left external ear (before treatment)



Fig 2: Complete resolution of swelling of right and left external ear (28th day after treatment)

after 2 weeks which revealed complete regression of haematoma in both ears (Fig. 2). No recurrence was reported over a follow up for another 6 months.

Discussion

Aural hematoma in dogs is characterized by fluctuating, tense, and sometimes painful swelling, which varies in size and position. The surgical treatment is faster due to the removal of the liquid contained in the aural hematoma. However, it is more invasive and has a higher cost, in addition to the risks of infection in the postoperative period, deformities in the external ear during the healing process, sequels, and relapses (Graça, 2010 and Evangelista *et al.*, 2012). *A. montana* and *H. virginiana* are medicines of plant origin and equally indicated in the treatments of phlebitis, varicose ulcers, and traumatic inflammations. Furthermore, *A. montana* has proven action on the migration of fibronectin, which is the main protein organizing the connective tissue during

the initial phase of healing and inflammation (Marzotto *et al.*, 2016). *H. virginiana* has haemostatic, venotonic, and vasoprotective properties and is indicated in the treatment of phlebitis, varicose ulcers, and traumatic inflammations on the skin (Cairo, 1991).

Reddy *et al.* (1992) have described the treatment of 07 dogs with aural hematoma using *H. virginiana*, *Bufo rana* and *A. montana* in combination with anti-inflammatory doses of corticosteroid and heparin ointment which led to variable duration of recovery period ranging from 7 to 23 days, and recurrence was reported in only 1 case. Valle *et al.* (2015) have also documented that homeopathic treatment for aural hematoma is extremely effective when well prescribed and administered. The 28 days recovery period of aural hematoma in the present study was similar to those reported by Reddy *et al.* (1992) and the patient was exclusively treated with homeopathic medicines and did not demonstrate any deformity of the external ear at the end of the treatment.

Conclusion

This successful case study proposes that homeopathic treatment should be considered as a viable option in cases of aural hematoma. It has yielded important observations such as quick recovery of the patient, cost-benefit for the patient as well as the owner, lower rate or no possibility of relapses, and no side effects. Further, similar case reports, and rigorous research must be undertaken to establish the utility of homeopathy in canine diseases.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest. All authors have gone through the content of manuscript, authorship and recommended the manuscript for the publication.

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