Dermatophyte Examination of Skin Scrapings Collected from a Camel: A Case Study

Subha Ganguly¹*, Parveez Ahmad Para² and Praveen Kumar Praveen³

¹Department of Veterinary Microbiology, ²Department of Livestock Products Technology, ³Department of Veterinary Public health and Epidemiology, Arawali Veterinary College (Affiliated with Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner), N.H. – 52 Jaipur Road, V.P.O. Bajor, Sikar – 332001, Rajasthan, India

*Corresponding author

Abstract

The present article reports on the laboratory examination of skin scraping sample collected from a camel clinically infected with dermatophyte infection. The samples were examined by direct microscopical examination by placing the skin scrapings and/or hairs in 20% KOH on a glass slide and gentle heating, without boiling. The dermatophyte identification was made based on the colony characteristics and microscopic features of the fungal isolates according to the methods. The present study revealed the presence of superficial dermatophyte skin infection in the affected camel. The recommended therapy was suggested to the T.V.C.C. for administration to the camel in divided doses on alternate daily intervals preferably in mixed preparations.

Introduction

Dermatophytosis is a superficial infection of the keratinized layers of the skin and its appendages (hair, feathers, horns) of farm, domesticated and wild animals and birds. The lesions are frequently ring shaped, hence the disease is called ring worm. Some dermatophytes have great zoonotic importance, where many of them occurring primarily in animals and can be transmitted from infected animals to man (Nakamura et al., 1999). Dermatophytes are filamentous fungi which invade keratinized tissues of humans and animals, causing mild to severe, localized and/or diffuse infections. Zoophilic and Geophilic dermatophytes infect both animals and humans, whereas anthropophilic ones are mainly found on humans (Cafarchia et al., 2013). It is caused by haematogenous group of keratinophylc fungi called the dermatophytes. Dermatophytes are non-invasive cannot survive in living tissues nor in areas of intense inflammation and they have keratolytic activity. Infection is generally restricted to the non-living cornified layers. Dermatophytosis is a clinical entity caused by the members of anamorph genera Microsporum, Trichophyton and Epidermophyton (Weitzman and Summerbell, 1995; Ainsworth, 1973; Balows et al., 1990; Ganguly et al., 2015; Ganguly, 2016).
In addition to the dermatophytic fungi, other yeasts and molds are sometimes involved in the coetaneous infection (Beneke and Rogers, 1990).

**Materials and Methods**

The skin scrapings were collected from the scaly and alopecic lesions on the skin of an affected camel presented for clinical examination at the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex (T.V.C.C.) of Arawali Veterinary College, Sikar, during December, 2016. The collected skin scraping samples were then brought to the Department of Veterinary Microbiology for mycological examination and reporting.

The samples were examined by direct microscopical examination by placing the skin scrapings and/or hairs in 20% KOH on a glass slide and gentle heating, without boiling. Boiling may cause precipitation and crystal formation that will make examination of specimens difficult (Carter and Cole, 1990). Superchrome blue-black ink or a simple stain mixed 1 part in 9 parts of KOH was used to examine the fungus elements and spores (arthrospores) microscopically in the scrapings. The fungal colonies were obtained on SDA followed by incubation at 27°C for 15 days. It revealed the presence of characteristic colonies spreading in nature with characteristic greyish-white cottony woolly mycelia after incubation. On SDA media, colonies were small, button shaped, white to cream-coloured colonies with a velvety surface, raised centre and flat periphery.

**Results and Discussion**

The incubated Sabouraud’s dextrose broth sample was subjected to spread plate culture on Sabouraud’s dextrose agar (SDA) media with chloramphenicol and cyclohexamide. The media was incubated at 27°C for two weeks. Staining with crystal violet dye mixed 1 part in 9 parts of KOH outlined the fungus elements and spores (arthrospores) microscopically in the scrapings. The fungal colonies were obtained on SDA followed by incubation at 27°C for 15 days. It revealed the presence of characteristic colonies spreading in nature with characteristic greyish-white cottony woolly mycelia after incubation. On SDA media, colonies were small, button shaped, white to cream-coloured colonies with a velvety surface, raised centre and flat periphery.

*Trichophyton verrucosum* is the most common dermatophyte that affects camels (Abdalla and Salim, 2010; Fadlelmula et al., 1994; Wisal et al., 2010)

The results obtained in the present study were in concurrence to the findings of Moore and Jaciow (1979), Monga and Mohapatra (1980), Mukherji et al., (1992), Kuttin et al., (1986) and Almuzaini et al., (2016). Almuzaini et al., (2016) had concluded that ringworm is a common disease affecting young dromedary camels below three years of age and *T. verrucosum* is a common cause.

**Recommended Therapy**

a) Topical application of imidazole derivatives (cotrimazole, econazole, miconazole, bifonazole, triconazole).

b) Griseofulvins (10 mg/kg b.wt. per day) and Ketoconazole (Nizoral) to be administered orally.

c) Systemic preparations of thiabendazole.
d) Vit. A and mineral supplementation besides topical application with iodine ointment enhance the recovery rate (Abdalla and Salim, 2010).

In conclusion, the present study revealed the presence of superficial dermatophyte skin infection in the affected camel. The recommended therapy was suggested to the T.V.C.C. for administration to the camel in divided doses on alternate daily intervals preferably in mixed preparations.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to Hon’ble Dean and Management (Hon) Chairman and Secretary, Aastha Society, Sikar) of Arawali Veterinary College for providing the necessary facilities to carry out the lab diagnostic work.

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How to cite this article: