PHLEGMON IN A SHE BUFFALO - A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

This communication reports a case of phlegmon in a she buffalo with septicaemia which was successfully treated without any complications.

Keywords: phlegmon, buffalo

INTRODUCTION

The phlegmon is a condition where there is necrotising inflammation of the facia and its layers (Radostits et al., 2003). This inflammation progresses to supportive tissue, where in there is pus formation which leads to complete sloughing of the affected skin and exposure of the underlying tissues. Phlegmon sometimes leads to general septicaemia which is often fatal. If the lesions are without any pus or suppuration, then the condition is called as cellulitis.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A she buffalo was presented to clinic with severe pus discharges and sloughing off of the skin covering the lower jaw (mandibular region). The physical observation revealed very foul smelling pus discharges involving almost all of the mandibular region (80%). The clinical observation revealed there was a rise in temperature, i.e. 105°F. The owner said that the condition had developed over a period of five days after being treated by a local person with some medication. According to the owner, the lesion developed initially with swelling of the entire area which was hot and painful. The lesion was oedematous, and from the third day onwards, there was a pus discharge from that area, and by fifth day, the entire skin had sloughed off (Figure 1.)

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

The animal was restrained properly and the necrotised part of the skin was carefully removed, leaving the underlying tissue open. The pus was cleared and the entire region was washed with potassium permanganate lotion. The animal was given NSAID meloxicam 0.5 mg/kg body weight to control the pain and fever. Prednisolone was given 10 mg/kg body weight intra-muscularly, SID. The antibiotic given was Dicrysticine 5.4 g intramuscularly BID. The owner was advised to spray the area with topicure spray externally. The treatment was continued for 5 days, and then Dicrysticine was given SID. From seventh day onwards, prednisolone was stopped with tapering doses. Later, by the 15th day, meloxicam was also discontinued. The therapy with dicrysticine alone was continued for about a month. Later, dicrysticine was discontinued, and Benzathine penicillin 24 lakhs was started and was given on alternate days for about two months. The animal completely recovered after three and a half months (Figure 2). Here in such cases, the dose of the selected antibiotic must be high, and the treatment with antibiotic should be continued for several days so that infection can be better controlled and proper healing achieved. The prednisolone is given in order to achieve broadspectrum anti-inflammatory action along with the NSAID meloxicam. Topicure spray was advised because it helps control external fly menace and also it also has antiseptic properties. Phlegmon is a...
condition wherein the soft tissues are usually involved. The main cause of this condition is infected injuries (Smith, 2002), penetrating traumatic wounds made by the animal itself or through infected material deliberately entering through injections or by injection of escharotic material. Penicillins are the drug of choice for treating cellulitis/phlegmon (Andrews et al., 2004). If an animal is sensitive to penicillin, the other antibiotics can be used are cephazolin 1 g, intravenously every 8 h, oxacillin 2 g I/V every 4 h, or vancomycin 1 g/ I/V every 12 h. In the present case, the choice of antibiotic was made keeping in mind the situation, the breadth of the spectrum, and economics of the farmer.

The case of phlegmon which was presented to the clinic with poor prognosis was successfully treated. The treatment of such cases takes a very long time and high doses of broadspectrum antibiotic.

**REFERENCES**


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Figure 1. Phlegmon in a buffalo- before treatment.

Figure 2. 3 months after treatment.