

EFFECTIVENESS OF HYPOSENSIBILIZATION IN DOGS DIAGNOSED WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS

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Objectives of this study:

Assess the response to hyposensibilization in a group of dogs with atopic dermatitis, based on the results obtained with the serum test ELISA.

Methodology and materials:

The study group consisted of 94 dogs with atopic dermatitis examined in the *Hospital Clínico Veterinario de la Facultad de Veterinaria de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid* (Clinical Hospital of the School of Veterinary Science in the UCM). The illness was diagnosed on the basis of history, clinical symptoms, the exclusion of other dermatological processes that also cause itching, and the results of the serum test (PET, ELISA, Alergovet S.L.).

Of the 94 dogs, 45 were male and 49 female. The age at which the illness first manifested itself was under 1 year old in 61% of the cases and under 3 years old in 88% of the cases.

Hyposensibilization was achieved through an injectable suspension of retard allergen extracts that had tested positive in the allergy tests. The allergen extracts prepared by *Alergovet S.L.* were injected subcutaneously in accordance with the standard protocol established by the lab.

Results:

The effect of the immunotherapy implemented in these dogs was assessed after twelve months of treatment, on the basis of the progression of the clinical symptoms and the use of symptomatic medication. The response to hyposensibilization after one year of treatment was as follows:

Excellent in 39% of the cases (only through hyposensibilization were the symptoms under control).

Good in 25% of the cases (in addition to hyposensibilization, other anti-itch treatments were applied sporadically and concurrently).

Moderate in 17% of the cases (in addition to hyposensibilization, other anti-itch treatments were applied concurrently and on a more frequent basis).

No response in 19% of the cases (there was no significant change in the clinical symptoms).

Conclusions:

Hyposensibilization with retard allergen extracts adsorbed (ALLERVET) prepared on the basis of the serum test PET-ELISA results, offers a beneficial response (in 81% of the cases) in the treatment of atopic dermatitis.