

RESULTS OF THE ALLERGY TESTS AND RESPONSE TO HYPOSENSIBILIZATION IN 20 CATS WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS.

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Study objectives:

To observe the response to hyposensibilization in 20 cats with atopic dermatitis diagnosed through the results from the serum test ELISA.

Methodology and materials:

The study has been conducted on 20 cats with atopic dermatitis from the Madrid Region. The age at which the illness first manifested itself ranges from 7 months to 6 years.

The illness was diagnosed based on history, clinical data, the exclusion of other dermatological conditions associated with itching, and the positive results of the serum test (PET-ELISA, Alergovet, S.L.).

Two ml of serum were drawn from each animal, and a serum test was conducted in order to measure the level of IgE. For the implementation of the test, 42 allergens were used, distributed in the following groups: pollen from gramineous plants, pollen from other type of grass, pollen from trees, fungus, mites, epithelium, and feather mix.

The hyposensibilization was done using an injectable solution containing those allergens that tested positive in the allergy test in retard phormula. The administration protocol followed the criteria established by the lab (Alergovet, S.L.).

Results:

The most frequent allergens that tested positive in the serum test were: pollen from gramineous plants (48%), pollen from other type of grass (20%), pollen from trees (15%), mites (10%) and fungus (7%).

During a treatment over a one year span, the response to hyposensibilization was as follows: excellent in 5 cases (only through hyposensibilization were the symptoms under control), good in 9 cases (hyposensibilization plus other anti-itch treatments applied sporadically and concurrently), moderate in 3 cases (hyposensibilization plus other anti-itch treatments applied concurrently and on a more frequent basis) and no response in 3 cases (no change in the clinical symptoms).

The total number of allergens used in each case was not higher than ten. If the test proved positive to a higher number of allergens, we chose the ones that were most consistent with the cat's history.

The age at which the illness manifested itself, or the age at which the treatment was initiated did not have any influence on the response to hyposensibilization.

Conclusions:

The serum test using the ELISA technique constitutes an efficient test to confirm atopic dermatitis and to implement a hyposensibilization treatment.

In the study under discussion, the pollen from gramineous plants was the most common allergen to show passivity in the serum allergy test.

Hyposensibilization based on the serum test results offers good results in the treatment of atopic dermatitis in cats.