

Safety and tolerance of the administration of allergen extracts following two cluster-schedules

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Objectives :

To assess the safety and clinical tolerance of the allergen depot extracts adsorbed on calcium phosphate (Allervet-Ca[®], Alergovet SL/Stallergens SL), administered during an initial period, following the cluster-schedule.

Material and methods :

Twenty one dogs diagnosed with atopic dermatitis in the Veterinary Clinic Hospital of the University Complutense Madrid. The disease diagnosis was established according to the clinical history, symptoms and excluding other dermatology diseases for which the main symptom is pruritus. The animals tested positive against serologic allergic tests (PET-ELISA Alergovet S.L).

For the specific immunotherapy, we used hyposensitisation extracts biologically standardized and adsorbed in calcium phosphate (Allervet-Ca[®], Alergovet SL/Stallergens SL), made according to the diagnostic and clinical history of the animal.

Two treatment protocols were used. In the first one (three week schedule), we used 8 dogs and each one was treated with 10 injections divided over 4 sessions (3 doses the first two days, and 2 doses on the last two with one week interval between each session of the treatment). The interval between doses were 60 minutes, and they were kept under supervision at least 30 minutes after each injection. The maintenance dose (0,8 ml of vial 3 - maximum concentration) was reached by day 21, and repeated during the maintenance period, once a month. Every dose was administered by the veterinary team that performed the study.

In the second protocol (2 weeks schedule) 13 dogs were used, and each one was administered with 8 injections divided over three sessions (3 doses the first day, 2 doses on the second, and 3 on the last day, with one week interval between each session). The patients received the different doses with an interval of 60 minutes. The maintenance dose (0,8 ml of vial 3) was reached by the day 14, one week earlier than the first protocol.

Results:

A total of 181 doses were administered and every patient reached the maintenance dose. No dog, neither on protocol 1 nor protocol 2, showed local or systemic adverse reactions (immediately or delayed).

Conclusions:

The safety and tolerance in the cluster-schedule with depot extracts adsorbed in calcium phosphate is magnificent. It could be used to reduce the time to reach the initial immunotherapy treatment from 24 weeks to 3-4 weeks, and it sets up a valuable alternative to the patient to reach the maintenance dose earlier.