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AN OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND ITS SEQUELAE IN CATTLE

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Case History

An outbreak of FMD in cattle was reported from "Sara Zamaka- Doaba" district Kohat, North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan. The number of affected animals was 257, while total cattle population of the area was 350. The FMD lesions were fully developed and body temperature was ranging from 104-105°F. After an antibiotic therapy (Combiotic 5 gm daily) and lesions were washed with $KMnO_4$ to prevent secondary infection, most of the animals recovered in 10 to 15 days. However, some animals developed myiasis which was treated accordingly. It took almost one month when all the animals recovered. There had been no reports of mortality from the village.

Observations and diagnosis

In October 1995, the District Livestock Officer (Kohat) working under the Sarhad Rural Support Corporation (SRSC) informed that a new disease had been reported by the Village Social Organizer of the area. The local veterinarians, including experts in the Afghan Projects, declared it as a new disease. The area was visited for examining the affected animals. A total of 26 animals were examined. Rectal temperature ranged from 103 to 103.5°F. The affected animals were depressed, off feed, reluctant to walk and the body hair were over grown.

The animals liked shady places and on exposure to the sun, started breathing with an open mouth. Some of the animals with a rectal temperature of 102.5°F showed an increase of 1.1°F when exposed to the sun. All the affected animals were coughing and there were grunting sounds from the lungs.

Treatment

The affected animals were treated with Ampicillin 20% (Vety Care (Pvt.) Ltd.) @ 8-12 ml, depending on the body weight and Avil 5 ml per animal for five consecutive days.

DISCUSSION

The foot and mouth disease (FMD) is widespread in Pakistan. Development of an effective vaccine against FMD is not in sight due to the plurality of the viral strains. It has seven serotypes and 65 sub-serotypes. In Pakistan, A, O and Asia-I are the most frequently found strains while type-C is quite rare. Although, mortality is very low (Sheikh *et al.*, 1986), however, the after effects of the disease include mastitis, loss of weight and deformities of foot (Afzal *et al.*, 1986). Chaudhry and Shah (1987) reported high morbidity rate of the order 82-98 per cent in two outbreaks of FMD in Friesian and Jersey half-breds with Sahiwal cattle. All the animals completely recovered after the treatment. The animals were declared as sequelae to FMD which is very rare. The signs and symptoms were in complete agreement with FMD sequel as reported by Blood *et al.* (1983). They reported that a common sequelae to FMD in cattle, probably due to endocrine damage is a chronic syndrome of dyspnea, anemia, overgrowth of hair and lack of tolerance described colloquially as panting. The social organizer and farmers of the area were informed about the syndrome. The farmers wre advised to vaccinate their animals against FMD on regular basis.

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