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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the late spring edition of the ESVD Bulletin. OK, it may be high summer where you are by now but I can assure you it will still be only be late spring here in Scotland. This edition of the bulletin contains the usual features of information on forthcoming meetings, the abstract watch and the ECVD corner.

With regard to the abstract watch, my thanks go to my colleague Hilary Jackson for contributing this feature and I can commend the excellent paper on mechanisms of allergen specific immunotherapy published in a recent issue of JACI.

ESVD-ECVD Congress Mainz 13th–15th September 2007

As you will know, this year's ESVD / ECVD congress is to be held at Mainz, Germany. The original intention was to hold the meeting in Prague but some problems with venues resulted in the change. Thanks go to the local organizers for filling the breach. This promises to be an excellent meeting with a really superb line up of speakers and topics, what looks to be a wonderful venue and an historic and interesting river for the morning run. Even better for the Scottish contingent, Ryan Air fly direct to Frankfurt from Glasgow, what more could you ask for? Please note that on this occasion there will be a post-congress Residents Day meeting that will be held in Mainz on Sunday 16th; read on for further details.

Web-Watch

Looking back through past issues of the Bulletin, I was reminded that Tim Nuttall, my predecessor, initiated the veterinary dermatology "Web-Watch". The internet now has a major influence on everything we do and a lot of useful (and sometimes awful) information is now available free on line. The "Web-Watch" seems to have gone quiet, perhaps we should be offering major incentives, but if you are aware of a particularly useful site, please send details to Peter Forsythe at the above address for inclusion. To kick this off, for those of you with a more clinical rather than specialist or research based interest, I can recommend the International Veterinary Information Service at www.ivis.org. If you are not already aware of IVIS, they are a non-profit organization dedicated to providing up-to-date, clinically relevant information to practicing veterinarians, veterinary students and scientists active in animal health and research. The IVIS editors and authors are veterinary clinicians and scientists recognized internationally in their areas of specialty. They have an on-line library with books, proceedings of veterinary organisations and a section on continuing education which offers manuals of past or future shortcourses and workshops, and links to educational and interactive websites. You must register but the site is free and you will find some very familiar names as contributors. Remember to visit the ESVD site www.esvd.org

What's it all for?

We have had cause for discussion recently about the role of the Bulletin and whether it should merely be a conduit for information relating to education and forthcoming meetings or whether it should truly be a forum for discussion and a means for the membership of the ESVD to air viewpoints. Certainly, as editor, I would wish to encourage the use of the Bulletin as a discussion forum and I believe that this is the view of the ESVD Board. Old fashioned debate and consideration of others viewpoints are undoubtedly healthy for any organisation. You only have to look at the recent amazing victory of nationalism over socialism here in Scotland to understand the consequences of a failure to listen.

If you have a view on this matter or you have any suggestions for subjects that the Bulletin might cover but currently doesn't, please email me at peter.forsythe@btconnect.com.

See you in Mainz.

ESVD-ECVD Congress Mainz 13th-15th September 2007 Programme

Continuing Education Session

Pruritic Diseases
Alopecic Diseases
Feline Dermatology
Equine Dermatology

Scientific Session

Hair Follicle Biology & Pathology
Evidence-Based Dermatology
Human Atopic Dermatitis
Clinicopathological Conference

The Long-term Gold partners of ESVD/ECVD are:



Keynote speakers

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dr Rosario Cerundolo | DVM, Cert. VD, Dip. ECVD, MRCVS |
| Prof. Thomas Bieber | M.D., Ph.D. |
| Dr Hywel Williams | MSc PhD FRCP |
| Dr Karin M. Beale | DVM Diplomate, ACVD |
| Dr Lars Mecklenburg | PhD |
| Dr Greg Burton | BVSc FACVSc |
| Dr Janet D Littlewood | MA PhD BVSc (Hons) DVR DVD MRCVS |
| Dr Anke Hendricks | Dr MedVet CertVD DipECVD MRCVS |
| Dr Peter B Hill | BVSc PhD DVD DipACVD DipECVD MRCVS |
| Dr Ralph M. Trieb | MD, Associate Professor |
| Dr Desmond J Tobin | BSc, PhD, MRCPath. |

Thursday 13th September 2007**Continuing Education****Pruritic diseases**

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:45 | Karin Beale: the itchy dog |
| 9:45-10:30 | Karin Beale: cytology |
| 10:30-10:45 | |
| 11:15-12:00 | Peter Hill: Allergy testing in practice |
| 12:00-12:45 | |
| 12:45-14:15 | Lunch |
| 14:15-15:00 | Karin Beale: Treatment of canine atopic dermatitis |
| 15:00-15:45 | Anke Hendricks: Malassezia dermatitis |
| 15:45-16:30 | Break |
| 16:30-17:15 | Anke Hendricks: Treatment of bacterial pyoderma |
| 17:15-18:00 | Janet Littlewood: Treatment of scabies, trombiculidiasis, cheyletiellosis and pediculosis |

Scientific Session**Hair follicle biology**

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:45 | Desmond Tobin: human/mammal hair follicle cycling |
| 9:45-10:30 | Lars Mecklenburg: congenital alopecia in domestic animals |
| 10:30-10:45 | Bayer Healthcare Long Term partner communication |
| 11:15-12:00 | Desmond Tobin: Alopecia areata |
| 12:00-12:45 | Ralph Trüeb: Scarring alopecias in humans |
| 12:45-14:15 | Lunch |
| 14:15-15:00 | Rosario Cerundolo & Lars Mecklenburg: Clinical and Histopathological aspects of noninflammatory alopecia in dogs |
| 15:00-15:45 | Rosario Cerundolo: Clinical aspects of noninfectious noninflammatory alopecia in dogs |
| 15:45-16:30 | Break |
| 16:30-17:15 | Ralph Trüeb: Treatment for alopecia in humans |
| 17:15-18:00 | Short Communications |

Friday 14th September 2007**Continuing Education****Alopecic Diseases**

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:45 | Greg Burton: Approach to noninflammatory alopecias |
| 9:45-10:30 | |
| 10:30-11:15 | Break |
| 11:15-12:00 | Greg Burton: Treatment of hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism |
| 12:00-12:45 | Anke Hendricks: Miscellaneous follicular diseases |
| 12:45-15:00 | Lunch & ESVD AGM |
| 15:00-15:45 | Peter Hill: General approach to inflammatory alopecias |
| 15:45-16:30 | Janet Littlewood: Management of demodicosis |
| 16:30-17:15 | Break |
| 17:15-18:00 | Janet Littlewood: Management of dermatophytosis |

Scientific Session**Evidence-Based Dermatology**

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:45 | Hywel Williams: "What is evidence-based dermatology and what is not" |
| 9:45-10:30 | Hywel Williams: "How to cheat in clinical trials" |
| 10:30-10:45 | 'Royal Canin' Long Term Partner Communication |
| 10:45-12:00 | Hywel Williams: Interactive session on evaluation of clinical trials |
| 12:00-12:45 | |
| 12:45-15:00 | |
| 15:00-15:45 | Short Communications |
| 15:45-16:30 | |
| 16:30-17:15 | |
| 17:15-18:00 | Short Communications |

Saturday 15th September 2007**Continuing Education****Feline Dermatology**

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:45 | Karin Beale: Miliary dermatitis |
| 9:45-10:30 | Karin Beale: Head and neck pruritus |
| 10:30-11:15 | Break |
| 11:15-12:00 | Greg Burton: Noninflammatory alopecias |
| 12:00-12:45 | Peter Hill: Eosinophilic diseases, acne |
| 12:45-15:00 | Lunch & ESVD AGM |
| 15:00-15:45 | Greg Burton: Approach to nodular skin diseases |
| 15:45-16:30 | Greg Burton: Common skin neoplasias |
| 16:30-17:15 | Break |

Equine dermatology

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|-------------|--|
| 17:15-18:00 | Janet Littlewood: Approach to the pruritic horse |
|-------------|--|

Scientific Session**Human Atopic Dermatitis**

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:00-9:45 | Thomas Bieber: The role of microbial colonization in human atopic dermatitis |
| 9:45-10:30 | Thomas Bieber: The role of antigen presenting cells in human atopic dermatitis |
| 10:30-10:45 | 'Janssen Animal Health' Long Term Partner Communication |
| 10:45-12:00 | Thomas Bieber: Human atopic dermatitis: a disease at the frontier of allergy and autoimmunity |
| 12:00-12:45 | Thomas Bieber: Modern management of human atopic dermatitis |
| 12:45-15:00 | |

Clinicopathological Conference

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 15:00-15:45 | Rosario Cerundolo, Lars Meckdenburg: Clinicopathological Conference |
| 15:45-16:30 | |
| 16:30-17:15 | |
| 17:15-18:00 | Short Communications |

Post-Congress resident's day Mainz 16th September

The main topic and final programme for the residents day is yet to be confirmed but Dr Anette Loeffler DVD Dip ECVD from the Royal Veterinary College, London, will give a talk about how to select and write a case report for the ECVD credentials and as usual there will be free communications and case reports presented by the residents.

For further details, please contact:

Dr. Ursula Mayer, CertVD
Resident, Dermatology
Medizinische Kleintierklinik München
Ursula.Mayer@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de

Memories of Lisbon

Now that the deadline for abstract submission for the 2007 ESVD/ECVDCongress in Mainz has passed, the 21st ESVD-ECVD Congress seems to be an even more distant memory. I believe that in general the elements that combine to make a congress unforgettable are the optimum scientific level of the presentations, good general organization and a "warm welcome city". Lisbon's Congress certainly managed to bring all these elements together making the event scientifically stimulating and a pleasant memory. I must confess this was my first ESVD Congress and for this reason even more exciting for me.

Personally I tried to divide my time between the Continuing Education sessions and The Scientific Program, pursuing my own particular interests—of course! I really enjoyed the session dedicated to viral skin infections and I've started to think that I've probably neglected them too much... and that I should start to put them on my lists of differential diagnoses more frequently! Endocrinology, allergic skin disease and bacterial skin disease... one can never have too much of these!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Lisbon congress as much as I did and that in addition to news and updates of how dermatologic scientific research is evolving, everybody went home with renewed enthusiasm for continuing professional development and benefited from the informal exchange of ideas with colleagues that should always result from an event like this.

Carla Dedola

Future ESVD Workshops

You will find complete details concerning our next workshops on www.esvd.org

Please do not forget to register early enough. The only priority is the date of registration and the ESVD membership. Workshops are organised for small groups (max 50) and if you register too late you could be refused.

The forthcoming events you should not miss are:

Workshop on skin oncology

July 5–7th 2007

Bern, Switzerland

Local Organizer: Monica Welle

Speakers: V. Affolter, A. Kristensen, K. Melzer, E. Müller, R. Panizzon, C Rohrer, S. Rüfenacht, I. Stamenkovich, M. Sutter, M. Welle

Scientific programme:

- General principles of oncogenesis
- Immune system
- Tumour cell interaction
- Angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis
- Contribution of epidermal stem cells to skin tumours
- Pathogenesis of mesenchymal and epithelial skin tumours
- Melanocytic tumours in humans

- Clinical and therapeutic aspects of skin tumours
- Cytology of skin tumours including a practical course
- Cutaneous paraneoplastic syndromes in dogs and cats
- Slide seminar: Clinical and pathological correlation of skin tumours

Price: without accommodation: €310 (ESVD members) – €410 (non ESVD members)

More information and provisional program on <http://www.esvd.org> (education)

Workshop on dermatological therapeutics

Spring 2008 – date TBC

Cuneo, Italy

Local Organizer: Chiara Noli

email contact: pitnoli@iol.it

Workshop on equine dermatology

September 2008 – date TBC

Spa – Belgium

Local Organizer: Luc Beco and Kerstin Bergvall

ESVD workshops are provided to help ESVD members and resident in dermatology to improve their understanding and knowledge in veterinary dermatology. We welcome suggestions for future topics and possible venues.

Future dermatology meetings

6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology

Hong Kong 2008

We are delighted to invite you to be a part of the 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from November 19th to 22nd 2008. Hong Kong is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and the gateway to Asia.

The World Congress is the most prestigious and global event in veterinary dermatology. The conference program is designed for everyone with a role or interest in dermatology including educators, researchers, clinical specialists and veterinarians in general practice.

Featuring:

- World renowned speakers reporting the most recent scientific advances in veterinary dermatology
- An equine program featuring keynote lectures, original research studies, problem-oriented and practical continuing education
- Comprehensive and advanced tiers of continuing education for the veterinary dermatologist and general practitioner
- The elegant and modern Hong Kong Convention Centre overlooking the magnificent and renowned Victoria Harbour
- An exciting social program featuring the diverse riches of delicious Asian cuisine, the memorable theatre of traditional Thai dancers and an elegant gala dinner
- Exotic Hong Kong: from Disneyland to Tai Chi and Chinese cooking classes; from tea ceremonies to hiking and kayaking tours in breathtaking landscapes
- Post conference tours; catch a plane to China and be awed by the grandeur of the Great Wall, swim and enjoy the beautiful coral reefs in Phuket, hike through the raw diverse beauty of Vietnam or visit the amazing Angkor Wat

Hong Kong Island is a fascinating mix of ancient eastern mystique, high-tech commerce and cosmopolitan lifestyles. From unrivalled tax free shopping bargains to thriving street markets, from spectacular harbour views to remote traditional villages, there is something unique and exciting for everybody visiting Hong Kong.

Join us for this once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Asia and attend the most prestigious and global event in veterinary dermatology. Come and share the diverse and unique culture in the dramatic crossroads city of Hong Kong where East meets West!

Australian College Of Veterinary Scientists' Annual Science Week

July 5-7th 2007

Venue: Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia

Dermatology Chapter Presentations: 6th & 7th July 2007

Dermatology Program

The Dermatology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists meeting is scheduled over two days as part of Science Week. Science Week is the annual meeting of all veterinary specialist groups in Australia and provides delegates with cutting edge information in a broad range of subjects in a relaxed environment. We are privileged to have a group of expert speakers including Associate Professor Daniel Morris from USA and Dr Richard Malik from Australia supported by a team of Australian pathologists, microbiologists and dermatologists to discuss the clinical presentation and diagnostic challenges of unusual or "tricky" microbial infections affecting dogs and cats. On the second day we focus on poorly understood sterile cutaneous diseases such as histiocytosis, vasculitis and panniculitis and a review of the classification of cutaneous lupus erythematosus including the newer clinical subtypes in the dog. The day will provide some interesting histopathology with presentations on sterile inflammatory patterns and apoptotic changes.

Other attractions

The Queensland Gold Coast is ideal location for holidaying - lots of sunshine, world renown beaches, great restaurants, and theme, wildlife and national parks amongst the many attractions. It's a great location for a concurrent holiday, with or without the family.

For further information contact the Secretary of the Dermatology Chapter Mandy Burrows on a.burrows@murdoch.edu.au; or visit the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' website: www.acvs.org.au

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Autumn Meeting

November 10-11th 2007

Speakers: Dr Brian Catchpole, Dr Peter Hill, Dr Ralf Mueller, Professor Thomas Bieber, Dr Sonya Bettenay, Dr Janet Littlewood

Scientific programme

- Immunology of hypersensitivity disorders
- Atopic dermatitis pathophysiology
- Clinical signs & treatment of atopic dermatitis
- Atopic dermatitis: mouse models
- Pathophysiology of human atopic dermatitis
- Human atopic dermatitis clinical signs and treatment
- Pathophysiology of cutaneous adverse food reactions
- Diagnosis of cutaneous adverse food reactions
- Food hypersensitivity in human patients
- Histopathology of allergic dermatitis
- Is it possible to distinguish between AD and ACFR?
- Insect hypersensitivities

- Equine allergic skin diseases
- Feline allergic skin diseases
- Avian allergic skin diseases

Gala Dinner

Commercial Exhibition

Further details and registration form at pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~timn/autumn_meeting.htm

Combined Meeting of the International Symposium on Ectoparasites of Pets and the Livestock Insect Workers Conference

June 10–14th 2007

Lexington, Kentucky (USA)

This meeting offers a unique opportunity for parasitologists, entomologists, veterinarians, clinicians, researchers, industry representatives, and others interested in arthropods affecting companion animals and domestic livestock. Research presentations will span basic biology, ecology, host-parasite interactions, disease transmission, zoonoses, medications, insecticides, etc.

Participants include veterinarians (dermatologists, parasitologists, clinicians, etc.), epidemiologists, entomologists, and industry supporters who are involved in research involving animal ectoparasites including fleas, ticks, lice, mites and mosquitoes, amongst others, as well as the parasites and pathogens they transmit.

For further information, go to the ISEP/LIWC conference website at www.pestmanagement.info/ISEP_LIWC/ or contact Dr. Fred Knapp, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091, phone 859-257-8989 (fax 859-323-1120), or fkknapp@uky.edu.

We look forward to seeing you in Lexington!

ESVD Research Grants

The ESVD research grant was received by Profs. R. Mueller and T. Goebel from Munich University for a study regarding the influence of lactobacilli on T cells in atopic dermatitis. Due to a reorganisation of the microbiology department in Munich it is impossible to conduct the study as planned in a timely manner, thus the grant is passed on to the runner-up of the other 4 grants and the grant will be received by Dr. Claude Favrot from Zurich for the study "GENETIC DIVERSITY of CANINE and FELINE PAPILLOMAVIRUSES".

Congratulations to Dr. Favrot.

Abstract Watch

Courtesy of Hilary Jackson

Pesavento PA, Bannasch MJ, Bachmann R, Byrne BA, Hurley KF. (2007)

Fatal *Streptococcus canis* Infections in Intensively Housed Shelter Cats.

Veterinary Pathology 44(2):218–21.

Three independent, fatal outbreaks of *Streptococcus canis* infection occurred in a 2-year period in shelter cats. The outbreaks occurred in Northern California (Yolo County), Southern California (Kern County), and North Carolina (Guilford County). An estimation of the affected population is >150 cats among 3 affected shelters, with a mortality rate of up to 30%. Among 20 cats submitted for necropsy there were 2 distinct pathologic presentations. The first (shelters 1 and 2) was skin ulceration and chronic respiratory infection that progressed, in some cats, to necrotizing sinusitis and meningitis. The second (shelter 3) was rapid progression from necrotizing fasciitis with skin ulceration to toxic shock-like syndrome, sepsis, and death. *S. canis* was the sole pathogen identified in most cases. Whether hypervirulent *S. canis* strains exist is unknown; there is little understanding of how these bacteria cause invasive disease in cats.

Akdis M, Akdis CA. (2007)

Mechanisms of allergen-specific immunotherapy.

J Allergy Clin Immunol. 119:780-789

From the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research. Allergen-specific immunotherapy (SIT) has been used for almost a century as a desensitizing therapy for allergic diseases and represents the only curative and specific method of treatment. Administration of appropriate concentrations of allergen extracts has been shown to be reproducibly effective when patients are carefully selected. The mechanisms by which allergen-SIT has its effects include the modulation of T-cell and B-cell responses and related antibody isotypes as well as effector cells of allergic inflammation, such as eosinophils, basophils, and mast cells. The balance between allergen-specific T-regulatory (Treg) and T(H)2 cells appears to be decisive in the development of allergic and healthy immune responses against allergens. Treg cells consistently represent the dominant subset specific for common environmental allergens in sensitized healthy individuals. In contrast, there is a high frequency of allergen-specific T(H)2 cells in patients with allergy. The induction of a tolerant state in peripheral T cells represents an essential step in allergen-SIT. Peripheral T-cell tolerance is characterized mainly by generation of allergen-specific Treg cells leading to suppressed T-cell proliferation and T(H)1 and T(H)2 cytokine responses against the allergen. This is accompanied by a significant increase in allergen-specific IgG(4), and also IgG(1) and IgA, and a decrease in IgE in the late stage of the disease. In addition, decreased tissue infiltration of mast cells and eosinophils and their mediator release including circulating basophils takes place. Current understanding of mechanisms of allergen-SIT, particularly the role of Treg cells in peripheral tolerance, may enable novel treatment strategies.

Nishifuji K, Olivry T, Ishii K, Iwasaki T, Amagai M.(2007 in press)

IgG autoantibodies directed against desmoglein 3 cause dissociation of keratinocytes in canine pemphigus vulgaris and paraneoplastic pemphigus. Vet Immunol Immunopathol.

Department of Dermatology, Keio University School of Medicine, 35 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-8582, Japan.

Pemphigus is a group of autoimmune blistering diseases of the skin and mucous membranes. In human patients with pemphigus vulgaris (PV) and paraneoplastic pemphigus (PNP), IgG autoantibodies against desmoglein (Dsg) 3 and Dsg1 play pathogenic roles in blister formation. In contrast, the target for IgG autoantibodies that induce keratinocyte dissociation has not been elucidated in canine pemphigus. The aim of the present study was to determine whether anti-Dsg IgG autoantibodies are present and disrupt the cell-cell adhesion of keratinocytes in canine PV and PNP. The extracellular domains of canine Dsg3 were recognized by IgG in 3/5 (60%) canine PV sera tested. IgG against the extracellular domains of canine Dsg1 was detected exclusively in two dogs that had PV with the mucocutaneous phenotype. In addition, anti-Dsg3 IgG was identified in canine PNP serum. Furthermore, incubation of normal human keratinocytes (NHK) with mucocutaneous canine PV serum and canine PNP serum resulted in dissociation of the NHK sheets, whereas the removal of anti-Dsg3 IgG from these canine sera blocked this dissociation. The present study indicates for the first time that circulating anti-Dsg3 IgG antibodies capable of dissociating keratinocytes are present in dogs with PV and PNP.

Jones RD, Kania SA, Rohrbach BW, Frank LA, Bemis DA. (2007)

J Am Vet Med Assoc. 230(2):221-7.

Prevalence of oxacillin- and multidrug-resistant staphylococci in clinical samples from dogs: 1,772 samples (2001-2005).

Department of Comparative Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-4543, USA.

OBJECTIVE: To determine whether resistance to oxacillin and other antimicrobials in 3 *Staphylococcus* spp commonly isolated from dogs increased from 2001 to 2005. DESIGN: Retrospective case series. SAMPLE

POPULATION: 1,772 clinical samples of various types obtained from dogs examined at the University of Tennessee Veterinary Teaching Hospital or at regional veterinary hospitals and submitted to the bacteriology and mycology laboratories associated with the teaching hospital. **PROCEDURES:** Samples were submitted by attending veterinarians to the bacteriology and mycology laboratories for routine aerobic microbial culture. Identification and antimicrobial susceptibility procedures were performed on all isolates. Susceptibility reports for each antimicrobial and *Staphylococcus* spp were determined from aggregate electronically archived test results. Oxacillin and multidrug resistance for *Staphylococcus intermedius* was analyzed by reviewing disk diffusion zone measurements. **RESULTS:** Oxacillin resistance increased among *S. intermedius* isolates during the past 5 years, and the increase was associated with multidrug resistance. In 2005, 1 in 5 *Staphylococcus* spp isolates from canine clinical samples was resistant to oxacillin. The most common staphylococcal species isolated were *S. intermedius* ($n = 37$), *Staphylococcus schleiferi* (21), and *Staphylococcus aureus* (4), and frequencies of oxacillin resistance in isolates of these species were 15.6%, 46.6%, and 23.5%, respectively. **CONCLUSIONS AND CLINICAL RELEVANCE:** Veterinarians should be aware of the potential for empiric drug treatment failures in instances where *Staphylococcus* spp infections are common (eg, pyoderma). Judicious use of bacterial culture and susceptibility testing is recommended.

Bussmann C, Böckenhoff A, Henke H, Werfel T, Novak N. (2006)

Does allergen-specific immunotherapy represent a therapeutic option for patients with atopic dermatitis?

J Allergy Clin Immunol. 118:1292-1298

House dust mite (HDM) allergens are perennial indoor allergens, which may play a role as allergic trigger factors in atopic dermatitis (AD). Facilitated by their high enzymatic activity, HDM allergens are capable of penetrating the impaired epidermal skin barrier in patients with AD, gaining access to immune cells. In this way, HDM allergens induce both allergic reactions of the immediate type and allergic reactions of the delayed type, which contribute to impairment of AD. Because allergen reduction achieved by encasing strategies does not always lead to significant improvement of clinical symptoms, specific immunotherapy (SIT) might represent an attractive therapeutic option for long-time treatment of this subgroup of patients with AD. However, systematic studies on the effectiveness of SIT in patients with AD are rare. Furthermore, data on the immunologic changes induced by SIT in patients with AD are not well studied. In this review, we provide an overview of the pathogenic impact of HDM allergens as an example for aeroallergens on the course of AD. In addition, we discuss prophylactic and therapeutic options for the treatment of HDM allergy in patients with AD, including a summary of the current data available on SIT as a potential therapeutic option for patients with AD.

Affolter VK, Moore PF. (2006)

Feline progressive histiocytosis

Vet Pathol. 43(5): 646-55.

Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA 95616, USA. vkaffolter@ucdavis.edu

Histiocytic proliferative diseases include reactive and neoplastic proliferations of dendritic cells (DC) or macrophages. Various forms of DC proliferations have been documented in humans and dogs; their etiology is largely unknown. With the exception of a few case reports, histiocytic proliferations have not been characterized in cats. This study summarizes clinical, morphologic, and immunophenotypic features of a feline progressive histiocytosis (FPH) in 30 cats. There was no breed or age predilection. Females were more often affected than males. Solitary or multiple nonpruritic firm papules, nodules, and plaques had a predilection for feet, legs, and face. Lesions consisted of poorly circumscribed epitheliotropic (13/30) and nonepitheliotropic (17/30) histiocytic infiltrates of the superficial and deep dermis, with variable extension into the subcutis. The histiocytic population was relatively monomorphic early in the clinical course. With disease progression, cellular pleomorphism was more frequently encountered. Histiocytes expressed CD1a, CD1c, CD18, and major histocompatibility complex class II molecules. This immunophenotype suggests a DC origin of these lesions. Coexpression of E-cadherin, a feature of cutaneous Langerhans cells, was only observed in 3 cats. FPH followed a progressive clinical course; the lesions, however, were limited to the skin for an extended period of time. Terminal involvement of internal organs was documented in 7 cases. Treatment with chemotherapeutics or immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory drugs was not successful. The etiology of FPH

remains unknown. FPB is best considered an initially indolent cutaneous neoplasm, which is mostly slowly progressive and may spread beyond the skin in the terminal stage.

ECVD Corner

www.ecvd.org



Dermatology Residencies Available

Please check the ECVD web site under "ECVD Residency" in the folder "ECVD Residency positions" for the details of approved ECVD residencies and the positions available.

Course/Seminar Accreditation

Those interested in having a course or seminar accredited by the ECVD Education Committee should check the ECVD web site under "General Information".

Admission of Non-ECVD Diplomates

Guidelines are available for admission to the ECVD for American Diplomates and Fellows of the Australian College of Veterinary Sciences (Dermatology) who have returned to work in Europe. Please check the ECVD web site under "General Information".

Title abuse

The President of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology would like to remind all persons who have successfully passed the Alternate Route Part I exam of the ECVD (now termed the "Alternate Route Qualifying Examination"), that the College does not allow the use of any title in relation to this examination whatsoever.

The use, in any way, of titles such as "ECVD Certificate Holder", "ECVD Part I Diploma Holder", "ECVD Alternate Route Qualifying Examination Holder" etc. is therefore absolutely forbidden by the College.

ECVD EXAMINATION RESULTS 2006

The following colleague has successfully passed the 2006 Alternate route Qualifying Examination:
Dr Stefanie Koebrich (Germany)

R. Cerundolo
President ECVD

Alternative Route Qualifying Examination

This examination will now only be offered to people already enrolled on the previous Alternate Route. It will take place annually as required with the last chance to pass this examination being in 2011. Those people interested in taking an alternate route to the Diploma examination should check the ECVD web site under "ECVD Residency" in the folder "Alternate Route Residency Programme" which has full details of the current Alternate Route. This has no associated intermediate examination.

Examination For Diplomate Status 2009

Notification is hereby given that the twelfth examination for Diplomate status of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in June/July 2009.

There are currently two possible routes by which to apply to sit the Diploma Examination:

By completion of an approved ECVD residency program;

By following the Alternate Route Residency Programme "Chalkidiki Rules".

A fee (please check it on the ECVD web site before submitting your credentials) will be charged for considering the applicant's credentials and sitting the examination. This is payable in advance of application and is non-refundable in the event that the applicant's credentials are not approved.

Further information can be found on the ECVD web site. All people who satisfy the required criteria, prior to submitting the application, should check the ECVD web site for the latest information (web pages are regularly updated) on the examination and instruction for payment of the fee. Information can also be obtained from the following people:

Chairman ECVD Education & Credential Committee: matters regarding the residency program and the credentials process. (Currently: Dr Ralf Mueller, e-mail: Ralf.Mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de);

Chairman ECVD Diploma Examination Committee: matters regarding the examination (Currently: Dr. Neil McEwan, e-mail: N.A.Mcewan@liverpool.ac.uk).

All applications must be received by 30th September 2008 using the official application form (available from the ECVD web site) together with the application fee and sent to the Chairman of the Education & Credential Committee.

Without exception, incomplete or late applications will not be processed or reviewed. The decision of the Credentials Committee will be reported to the applicants by 31st December 2008.

Dr Ralf Mueller

Chairman ECVD Education & Credentials Committee