

Research
Note

Efficiency of *Calotropis gigantea* latex in chronic abscess maturation in domestic animals- A field report

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Abscess is a circumscribed inflammatory lesion which consists of purulent exudate (pus) surrounded by a limiting membrane (pyogenic membrane) and acute abscess matures rapidly (3 – 5 days). Chronic (cold) abscess matures slowly meanwhile may become inspissated or caseated or calcified or dissipate infection (Tyagi *et al.*, 2002). Hence, hastening of early maturation of cold abscess is very essential in clinical treatment from various points of view.

In this trial 28 animals (8 cattle, 16 sheep and 4 goats) with chronic cutaneous swelling were employed which formed Group A. Group B and C had each 6 animals (2 cattle, 2 sheep, 2 goats). The symptoms noticed in these three groups were, swelling ranged between 3 and 8 cms in diameter at various parts of the body, which were soft or hard, thin or thick walled and with or without pain. The groupings were done randomly. The diagnosis was confirmed by exploratory puncture, the fluid oozed was pus or purulent or blood tinged.

Group A animals were applied a drop of latex of *C. gigantea* (The swallow wort or milk weed) on the lowest part of the

swelling one time only. Group B animals were given hot water fomentation and iodine ointment application twice daily. Group C animals were kept as such.

All animals in group A showed pointing or escape of pus in 4 – 7 days. Group B showed pointing in 7 – 14 days. In group C two animals showed pointing on 12th and 14th day.

In group A, the pointing was noticed exactly at the site where the latex was applied (Dependant part). This facilitated very easy drainage of pus and treatment. The area of maturation was also little and the skin surrounding the area of pointing had not become very thin. This treatment is economical and easy. In contrary group B animals showed different sites of pointing, this made clinical therapy difficult. More skin area surrounding the pointing had become thin and caused skin damage while dressing. The labour, economy and duration of treatment for maturation were also more compared with group A.

The caustic and anti-inflammatory effects of the latex might have caused the rapid maturation. This needs further

study.

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