Leptospirosis: Global Awareness

In humans, leptospirosis causes acute febrile illness and can be difficult to distinguish from dengue. Approximately 5%-10% of humans with leptospirosis are affected severely; 5%-15% of these patients die. During 2000-2009, approximately 15-100 human leptospirosis cases were reported annually in Puerto Rico. In January 2010, the CDC initiated enhanced surveillance in Puerto Rico. Fatal cases of acute febrile illnesses were investigated and tissue samples were tested for dengue virus and other pathogens, including *Leptospira* spp. Twenty laboratory-confirmed cases and 5 suspected fatal cases of leptospirosis were identified, suggesting that 60%-70% of fatal cases of leptospirosis were not reported. This may reflect case underrecognition, underreporting, or both.

Physicians and veterinarians were interviewed to assess their knowledge of the clinical presentation and treatment of leptospirosis, as well as reporting requirements. Over 95% of interviewees could describe signs and symptoms, risk factors, and appropriate treatments for leptospirosis. Both groups indicated that diagnostic services were not timely or available. Veterinarians were willing to participate in a reporting system if available. The Puerto Rico Department of Health and the CDC agreed to: (1) implement a new surveillance system recording suspected cases of leptospirosis in humans and animals; (2) develop diagnostic capacity for leptospirosis; (3) promote use of FDA-approved rapid tests in the field; and (4) revise case definitions for reporting.

Commentary

Leptospirosis is considered an emerging disease in dogs in the United States. However, it is not a reportable disease in either humans or dogs in the United States, so its prevalence remains unknown. Currently, diagnosis is based on acute and convalescent phase antibody titers by the microscopic agglutination test. All practitioners should be aware of the varied clinical syndromes associated with *Leptospira* spp infection.—Patricia Thomblison, DVM, MS

Source


FOR MORE…

Share handouts Leptospirosis: Protecting Your Patients & Staff with your team (cliniciansbrief.com/protect-against-leptospirosis) and So Your Dog Has Leptospirosis with your client (cliniciansbrief.com/so-your-dog-has-leptospirosis).

EASOTIC®

Otic suspension (hydrocortisone acetate, miconazole nitrate, gentamicin sulfate) Anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and antibacterial

For Otic Use in Dogs Only

CAUTION

Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Please consult package insert for complete product information.

INDICATIONS

EASOTIC® suspension is indicated for the treatment of otitis externa in dogs associated with susceptible strains of yeast (*Malassezia pachydermatis*) and bacteria (*Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Do not use in dogs with known tympanic membrane perforation. EASOTIC® suspension is contraindicated in dogs with known or suspected hypersensitivity to corticosteroids, miconazole antifungals, or aminoglycoside antibiotics.

WARNINGS

Human Warning: Not for use in humans. Keep this and all drugs out of reach of children.

Humans with known or suspected hypersensitivity to hydrocortisone, miconazole antifungals, or azole antifungals should not handle this product.

Animal Warning: As a class, aminoglycoside antibiotics are associated with ototoxicity, vestibular dysfunction and renal toxicity. The use of EASOTIC® suspension in a dog with a damaged tympanic membrane can result in damage to the structures of the ear associated with hearing and balance or in transmission of the infection to the middle or inner ear. Immediately discontinue use of EASOTIC® suspension if hearing loss or signs of vestibular dysfunction are observed during treatment (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

PRECAUTIONS

Do not administer orally. Concurrent administration of potentially ototoxic drugs should be avoided.

With caution in dogs with impaired hepatic or renal function (see ANIMAL SAFETY).

Long-term use of topical otic corticosteroids has been associated with adenocortical suppression and uroliths (see ANIMAL SAFETY).

The safe use of EASOTIC® suspension in dogs used for breeding purposes, during pregnancy, or in lactating bitches, has not been evaluated.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

In a field study conducted in the United States, there were no adverse reactions reported in 145 dogs administered EASOTIC® suspension.

In foreign market experience, reports of hearing loss and application site erythema have been received. In most reported cases, the hearing loss and erythema were transient and resolved with discontinuation of EASOTIC® suspension. To report suspected adverse drug events, or for technical assistance contact Virbac at 800-338-3659.

ANIMAL SAFETY

Aural administration of EASOTIC® suspension to 12 week old Beagle dogs at 1, 3, and 5 times the recommended dose (1 mL/day) for 15 days (three times the treatment length) was associated with alterations of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis as evidenced by the ACTH stimulation results. Other findings considered to be related to treatment include the development of otitis externa and media; and elevations in alanine aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, total protein, albumin, and cholesterol levels.

STORAGE INFORMATION: Store at temperatures between 20°C-25°C (68°F-77°F), with excursions permitted between 15°C-30°C (59°F-86°F).

HOW SUPPLIED: EASOTIC® suspension is supplied in a polyethylene container with a soft applicator canula.

Distributed by:

Virbac AH, Inc.

Fort Worth, TX

76137 USA

NADA 141-330, Approved by FDA

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