Rhodococcus Equi Pneumonia in an Adult Horse

R.K. Bhardwaj¹, Irfan A. Mir, A.K. Taku and Bablu Kumar

Division of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, R.S. Pura 181102, SKUAST-J, Jammu and Kashmir

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Pneumonia due to R. equi is a severe problem in foals less than six months of age in which severe fatal suppurative bronchopneumonia can occur. But in case of adult horses Rhodococcus equi is a rare and uncommon etiologic agent of respiratory disease (Ellenberger and Genetzky, 1986). The present case reports Rhodococcus equi pneumonia in an adult horse.

Case History and Observations

5 years old horse was presented in the Veterinary Clinics and Teaching Hospital, SKUAST-Jammu, with a history of decreased appetite, purulent nasal discharge, coughing and recurrent respiratory problem. Clinical examination revealed rectal temperature of 103°F, dyspnea, tachypnea, lethargy and respiratory râles on auscultation of trachea and bronchi. The animal was treated with Amoxicilin and cloxacillin (inj. Intamox-3g) daily for four days but the animal did not respond to the treatment and condition deteriorated and the horse died on the fifth day. The post mortem examination of the animal, anteroventral consolidation of lungs was found. The lungs were seen severely congested with prominent interlobular septa and lobules. Affected lobules in combination with unaffected presented characteristic checker board appearance. The bacterial cultures of bronchial, tracheal and lung samples on sheep blood agar revealed small pinpoint non-hemolytic colonies which became mucoid with ageing on blood agar. Further confirmation of the strain was done by its inability to ferment glucose, sucrose, lactose, sorbitol and maltose in sugar fermentation tests. Antibiogram of the isolated strain showed resistance to most of the commonly used drugs included amoxicillin, penicillin, gentamicin, tetracycline and erythromycin. This strain of R. equi was found positive for Vap A plasmids by Vap A PCR which are most commonly found in highly virulent strains.

Vengust et al., (2002) reported R. equi pleuropneumonia in a 10 years old gelding, diagnosed after several weeks of debilitating disease that led to the death of the animal. Other reports of R. equi infection in adult horses described infection that involved different organ systems (Genetzky et al., 1982). The case presented seems to be one of the few cases of detailed report of R. equi respiratory infection in an adult horse in India. However it

¹Corresponding author : Email : sonu7800@gmail.com

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is very rare that animal dies due to this infection in adult age. In this case the strain of the *R. equi* was highly virulent which was resistant to some of the conventional drugs used for the treatment and possessed virulent plasmids. Further, irrational use of antibiotic might have allowed resistant strain to proliferate and cause severe complications which eventually led to catastrophic collapse of the animal. Diagnosis of this disease is difficult in the initial stages since in early stage disease develops without any clinical signs. Therefore, early diagnosis always remains a key factor in achieving the best outcome.

**References**


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**Surgical Management of Salivary Mucocele (Ranula) in a German Shepherd Dog**

Deepak Kumar Kashyap¹, S.K. Tiwari, D.K. Giri, Govina Dewangan and G.D. Kaushal

Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Anjora, Durg – 491 001, Chatthisgarh

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Ranula by definition is a mucous filled cavity, a mucocele, in the floor of the mouth in relation to the sub-lingual gland. Ranulas are characteristically large (>2 cm) and appear as a tense fluctuant dome shaped swelling, commonly in the lateral floor of the oral cavity (Jaishankar *et al.*, 2010). Salivary mucocele is the most clinically recognized disease of the salivary glands in the dogs (Smith, 2000). The present report describes a clinical case of salivary mucocele (Ranula) in a German Shepherd dog.

**Case History and Observations**

A four year old male German Shepherd dog was presented with the complaint of large ulcerated swelling located left lateral to the tongue just near to the *franulum linguae*. On clinical examination, a soft and fluctuant mass was