

RECIDIVOUS CANINE DEMODICOSIS SECONDARY TO HYPOTHYROIDISM

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Demodicosis is an inflammatory disease of parasitic origin that affects skin. It is characterized by the presence of a larger number of demodex acari than normal. Immunossuppression disorders such hypothyroidism can increase such susceptibility. A eight months old male Rottweiler dog was received at the Small Animals Medical Clinical Service of the Veterinary Hospital of UFPR displaying alopecia, moderate pruritus and widespread pyodermitis. A deep scrape of skin was analyzed by microscope and revealed a great quantity of acari (*Demodex* sp.). This animal was medicate with ivermectine (0,04 ml/ kg) subcutaneously, once a week, up to four administrations. The dog also received antibiotictherapy, using enrofloxacin (5 mg/kg) twice a day, for ten days to treat secondary pyodermitis. Four months later, the patient returned displaying the same clinical signs, associated to alopecia, symmetrically distributed and bilaterally on the back. Pododermatitis was also observed. It was then performed a new exam of a skin scrape which resulted positive again. Then, it was decided to carry on a mensuration of thyroid hormone (T4) and the result was compatible with hypothyroidism. The patient was treated for demodicosis by oral administration of ivermectine (0,08 ml/kg) once a day, during 30 days. Besides this, the dog also received a hormonal supplementation with 0,02 mg/kg levotyroxine (T4), twice a day with a controll of the clinical signs. This report aims to alert the clinics that animals with chronic or recidivous demodicosis, usually presents a primary affection typical to the process. Hypothyroidism is an important and common hormonal disorder that was currently associated to demodicosis.

Key Words: demodicosis, hypothyroidism, Rotweiler dog.