

Paragonimiasis in a Leopard (*Panthera Pardus*)

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Paragonimiasis caused by lung fluke *P. Westermani* have public health significance affect wild felid and domestic animals. Parasites invade lung parenchyma and remain inside the cyst without causing heavy damages. Mortality due to parasite is rare.

The presence of Paragonimiasis confirmed on parasitological examination of fecal matter in present case is reported in wild felid by several workers. (Rao and Acharjyo 1996).

Case History and Clinical Examination

Leopard trapped by forest personnel shifted to Maharajbagh Zoo Nagpur for treatment. The animal was found dull, depressed, lethargic, dehydration, septic wounds on body, lacrimation, temperature 102°F. The ailing Leopard secured in squeeze cage and 5 ml of blood sample was collected from dorsal branch of median saphenous vein in the hind leg at the level of knee by inserting sterilized needle and was stored in EDTA vial at rate of 1 mg/ml of blood, for estimation. Simultaneously blood smears were prepared for DLC and Protozoan infection. Separately the blood was collected in sterilized test tube for separation of serum. Thus harvested serum sample was kept on ice transported and preserved in deep freezer by adding merthiolate at rate of 1:1000. Fecal sample examination revealed presence of *Paragonimus spp.* eggs. Hematobiochemical investigation revealed Hb

9.2 gm/dl, differential leucocyte count, neutrophil 72 percent, lymphocyte 25 percent, eosinophil 1 percent, monocyte 2 percent, PCV 32 percent, random blood glucose 64.3 mg/dl, serum creatinine 1.7 mg/dl, total protein 7.5 gm/dl, serum SGOT 115.2 U/L, serum SGPT 130.9 U/L.

Treatment Given: Inj. Taxim 500 mg I/M, B. Comp 5 ml I/M, Betnesol 2 ml I/M, DNS 5 percent 250 ml I/V, Prazital plus (Intas Pharmaceuticals, India) 50 mg/kg body weight single dose. It is very likely that the aforesaid infection in leopard could be due to eating raw fish containing encysted cercaria in the free living state. The judicious therapy subjected has brought spectacular improvement from sickness.

It is concluded that the obscure clinical cases, its diagnosis and therapeutic intervention in Leopard revealed confidence in tackling the problem of wild life in captivity.

Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to Dr. V.M. Dhoot, veterinary officer maharajbagh zoo, Maharashtra for providing necessary facility.

References

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