

Auricular Hematoma in a Dog Treated by Homeopathic Therapy - Case Report

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Abstract: ***Background:** Auricular hematoma is a self-limiting disease, usually traumatic in origin, and most commonly affects dogs than cats. Surgery is usually the treatment of choice. However, homeopathic therapy has been gaining ground in these treatments for offering innumerable advantages, such as easy administration, low cost, no side effects to the patient's organism. **Case Presentation:** This study aimed to report a case of an auricular hematoma in a 17-year-old female dog treated with the ultra-diluted injectable (*Arsenicum album* and *Hamamelis virginiana*) and oral (*Bellis perennis* and *A. album*) medicines. **Conclusions:** The patient presented a successful response over 30 days of treatment with complete resolution of the disease, and no complications throughout the period were recorded.*

Keywords: Auricular hematoma; complementary therapies; dog

1. Introduction

Auricular hematoma (otohematoma or aural hematoma) has traumatic etiology and may be correlated with pathologies involving the hearing system, such as otitis, resulting in abrupt movements of the head due to pain [1]. It is characterized by the blood accumulation in the subcutaneous tissue of the external ear when integrity between the auricular cartilage and the skin occurs, mostly due to traumatic injury [2, 3]. It has a high incidence in dogs [4] and hardly affects cats [5].

Aural hematomas are, in general, self-limiting due to the occurrence of fluid reabsorption and healing in the natural evolution of the disease. Therefore, it is characterized as a dynamic method. However, the disease resolution is slow, and fibrosis may occur in the healing process, increasing the thickness and, consequently, the deformation of the ear [6]. Recurrence rates are also high.

The disease is diagnosed by physical examination. The auricular region is swollen, palpation reveals a fluid and floating content, which can be firm and thick due to fibrosis when the process is already in the chronic phase. The patient's history must be considered to identify and eliminate predisposing factors to the problem, preventing its recurrence [2].

Several types of treatment are available to obtain the physical improvement of the patient with auricular hematoma [3], with acceptable results. The most invasive procedures are the ones most frequently performed among veterinarians. However, the results are not always satisfactory [7]. Regardless of the therapy used, the treatment should be initiated as soon as possible, immediately after the disease diagnosis, to prevent fibrosis of the injured tissue. Clinical therapy may be indicated in most cases, and homeopathic medicines become an excellent

alternative, with no need for drainage of the hematoma or surgical procedures [2, 3]. Each day, homeopathy has become the treatment of choice among the clinicians that support Complementary Veterinary Medicine [3] as a low-cost, minimally invasive, and effective therapeutic tool for treating various diseases [2, 3, 8]. Therefore, the objective of this study was to report the occurrence of a unilateral case of otohematoma in a 17-year-old female Poodle.

2. Case Description

A 17-year-old female Poodle weighing 7.2 Kg, with the main complaint of volume increase in the left external ear, was seen at NaturalPet Veterinary Clinic in Brasilia, Brazil. The dog had a previous history of bilateral otitis treated for ten days by conventional medication. However, even after the treatment for otitis, the tutor complained that the ear volume did not decrease.

According to the tutor's report, the clinical signs arose approximately 20 days before the veterinary appointment. The patient was in her habitual state, and her behavior had returned to the usual after the conventional treatment for otitis, even with the increased ear volume. The dog had normal colored mucosa, CRT 2", cardiac auscultation within normal limits according to the age and species, good overall condition despite her advanced age, and no significant alterations or other complaints by the tutor. After anamnesis and clinical examination, an otohematoma was diagnosed on the internal face of the left ear (Figure 1). The etiology was of traumatic origin; the tutor reported that the animal scratched its ears before treating the otitis. A complete hemogram and biochemical measurements of alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (AP), urea, and creatinine were requested.

A subcutaneous injectable, homeopathic treatment was prescribed and consisted of an application of one ampoule

(1.1 mL) of *Hamamelis virginiana* D12 (1×10^{-12}) (Injectcenter®) at the clinic on the day the patient was seen. From the second day, the applications were carried out by the tutor in her house, as follows: *Arsenicum album* D9 (1×10^{-9}) (Injectcenter®), one ampoule (1.1 mL), once a day, for ten days, subcutaneously; *H. virginiana*, one ampoule, once a day, for ten days, subcutaneously. Four drops of *Bellis perennis* 30CH (1×10^{-60}), associated with *Arsenicum album* 30CH (1×10^{-60}), SID, were also indicated as an oral treatment for 30 days.

After 30 days, the patient returned to the clinic for a reevaluation. The otohematoma had considerably decreased in size (Figure 2 B and D). The hemogram demonstrated the following results: Red blood cells 8,650,000/ μ L; Hemoglobin 23g/dL; Hematocrit 44.3%; Total leukocytes 6,900/ μ L; Platelets 289,000/ μ L; Total Plasma Protein 8.8g/dL; Urea 45mg/dL; Creatinine 1.5 g/dL; ALT 96 U/L; AP 247 U/L. Healing occurred smoothly, resulting in a slight formation of scar/fibrosis on the inner face of the left ear (Figure 2 D). The patient was followed up for 30 additional days and was evaluated at the end of this period. No disease recurrence was observed.

Ethical approval: the conducted research is not related to either human or animal use.



Figure 1: Initial clinical appearance of the left ear.



Figure 2: Overall appearance of the ear with the animal standing before (A) and 30 days (B) after treatment initiation. Initial appearance of the external ear: internal face of the left ear before (C) and 30 days (D) after treatment initiation.

3. Discussion

Auricular hematoma is a frequent disease in the veterinary clinic, and statistical data shows that one out of 30 animals will present the problem [5]. The clinical treatment is the most indicated conventional therapy, but the surgical procedure is, in general, performed with a higher frequency. However, this procedure is more invasive, of higher cost, promotes infection risks in the postoperative period, deformities in the external ear during the healing process, sequels, and relapses [2].

Contrarywise, homeopathic therapy has been standing out as an essential therapeutical tool. It is safe, does not present the conventional medication's side effects, nor depresses the overall patient condition. It also maintains the organism's homeostasis and develops continuous and effective disease control [2].

The otohematoma homeopathic treatment is highly effective when correctly prescribed and administered [2, 3, 8]. These authors recorded that, besides being efficient, the homeopathic therapy is practical, low-cost, and has a short recovery time. Therefore, this type of treatment is demonstrated to be an essential tool in the treatment of auricular hematoma, which corroborates our findings.

In our study, the homeopathic medicines *H. virginiana*, *A. album*, and *B. perennis* used in combination at different administration forms, concentrations, and times showed promising results on the resolution of the auricular hematoma, with no need for invasive procedures. Disease resolution was fast, and the 30-day recovery period observed in the present study was in accordance with the recovery period previously reported [2, 3, 8]. Additionally, no scars or deformities were observed in the auricle pavilion. No disease recurrence was recorded.

4. Conclusion

The present article described the effectiveness of the homeopathic treatment for the auricular hematoma, which was of easy administration and had no side effects on the patient. These promising data point to the importance of further studies on the effects of homeopathic therapy on patients with auricular hematoma to allow for efficient disease treatment, reducing the use of unnecessary and invasive procedures.

5. Learning Points

- Describe the auricular hematoma homeopathic treatment in an elderly dog;
- Characterize the effectiveness of *H. virginiana*, *A. album*, and *B. perennis* for healing otohematoma;
- Demonstrate the fast disease resolution, with no need for invasive procedures, when using the homeopathic treatment prescribed.

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