

Acupuncture treatment on horse with eosinophilic granulomas and repetitive colic

By:

Ajda Konjedic, DVM, CVA

Ajševica 29A, 5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

0038631440502

ajdakonjedic@gmail.com, info@acusvet.com



Name: Ajda Konjedic, DVM, CVA
Address: Ajševica 29A, 5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Phone: 0038631440502
E-mail:ajdakonjedic@gmail.com, info@acusvet.com

Abstract:

With acupuncture therapies I successfully treated horse with eosinophilic granulomas and repetitive colic.

The horse needed a few dry needle acupuncture therapies, Chinese herbs and Moxa. In total we did 4 dry needle acupuncture sessions with 10 min of Moxa warming-once every week to resolve all eosinophilic granulomas. Additionally another 4 acupuncture sessions were done for avoiding colic in future.

Acupuncture therapies were combined with short warming with Moxa and Chinese herbs Bu Zhong Yi Qi Tang.

At the moment, Anouk is without eosinophilic granulomas-they did not repair this season and she had no colic this year.

History:

Anouk, an 8-years-old mare, was presented for an acupuncture consultation on the 26th of September 2017. For 5 months the mare has had one large eosinophilic granuloma in neck area and 2 smaller eosionophilic granulomas on ventral abdomen area. In the beginning of August biopsy of eosinophilic granulomas was done and a veterinarian decided to try 3 weeks course of prednisolone orally. Eosinophilic granulomas did not get smaller after therapy with orally steroids and the owner decided to try with acupuncture.

Mare also had history of colic. For 3 years, every year at the end of Summer/beginning of Autumn she had colic. Owner noticed that every year colic are longer.

Clinical signs/diagnostics/diagnosis-conventional (Western):

Anouk was diagnosed with eosinophilic granulomas based on clinical signs and biopsy done on the 4th of August 2017.

At the time of the clinical examination, Anouk had normal weight. She had normal appetite and stools. There were no discharges from eyes and nose. Her hooves were all cracked. Her hair was falling out and was not shining. 1 large granuloma was observed in neck area and 2 smaller granulomas in ventral abdomen area.

Clinical signs/diagnosis TCM (Eastern):

Anouk is a typical mare with a strong character. She is a Wood type of constitution. During the TCM exam, all Bach Shu points were all sensitive. After draining Bl67, Bach Shu point of Th, Sp and Kd were sensitive. Mu points of Th, Sp and Kd were also sensitive. Ting points were all in deficiency-large holes. There was huge crack on the right front hoof at the position of Ting point of Th meridian. All other hoof walls were also cracked. Tongue was enlarged, sticky and a little bit purple. Anouk had a lot of grey hairs which appeared just recently. The ears, tail, extremities, back area were a little bit cold. Her coat was dry, lots of hair were falling out.

After observing large eosinophilic granuloma in neck area I concluded that meridians Bladder, Governing Vessel, Large intestine, Gall Bladder and Small intestine are affected.

2 smaller eosinophilic granulomas were located at the level of Stomach meridian.

Colic appeared every year in Spleen season at the end of Summer/beginning of Autumn.

Horse is situated in very Damp environment (there are a lot of lakes and sea in the surrounding area).

A diagnosis of Damp stagnation in several Yang meridians (Stomach, Bladder, Governing Vessel, Large intestine, Gall Bladder and Small intestine) due to Kd and Sp Yang deficiency was done.

Western treatment:

A 3 week course of corticosteroids-prednisolone orally was done. After a course of prednisolone there were no evident changes.

When Anouk had colic, a treatment with Buscopan was done.

Treatment with TCM medicine:

Treatment principle:

- move stagnation
- harmonise Liver
- drain dampness
- nourish Blood
- tonify Yang
- tonify Spleen and Kidney

During all acupuncture treatments dry needling was used for 20-30 minutes. During all acupuncture therapies needles were warmed for 10 minutes with a Moxa cigar (*Artemisia Vulgaris*). I did not want to warm them more because horse had a lot of Dampness inside. Chinese herbs Bu Zhong Yi Qi Tang 6g per day were prescribed.

1. acupuncture session 26.9.2017

Sp6	benefits the Spleen functions of transformation and transportation, transforms Dampness, moves and nourishes Blood
Liv3	promotes flow of Liver Qi
Th1	invigorates Blood, colic, distal point for problems around meridian, hoof problems
Lu7	Master point for the Head and Neck, stimulates Wei Qi, edema
GV4	Benefits Yang, especially Kidney Yang, strengthens original Qi, Benefits the Kidney function of Dominating Water metabolism

B117	Influent point for the Blood, regulates and tonifies both Qi and Blood, non-responsive skin problems, immunostimulation
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2. acupuncture session 5.10.2017

All three eosinophilic granulomas were smaller, crack on front right hoof at the level of Th meridian was becoming smaller. In this week Anouk had a small colic that did not last as long as other 3 in the past.

B162	couple point for the Du Mai (Governing Vessel), removes obstructions of the channel, distal point for any problem along the meridian-neck
Kd7	tonifies Kidneys, resolves Damp
SI 3	opening point for the Du Mai (Governing Vessel) Neck pain, combine with B162 to treat entire neck and back
B117	influent point for the Blood, regulates and tonifies both Qi and Blood, non-responsive skin problems, immunostimulation
GV4	benefits Yang, especially Kidney Yang, strengthens original Qi, Benefits the Kidney function of Dominating Water metabolism

2. acupuncture session 20.10.2018

Granulomas went smaller.

St40	strong point for resolving Phlegm, resolves Damp, good for Phlegm anywhere in body, lumps anywhere
LI4	Source (Yuan) Point, removes obstructions in the body
Kd3	Source point, tonifies the Kidneys and benefits Essence and the Kidney function of dominating Water metabolisms
CV12	benefits the Spleen function of transportation and transformation, dispels and transforms Dampness
B116	association (Shu) point for the Governing Vessel, invigorates the Blood, problems along the meridian
GV14	meeting point for all Yang meridians, tonifies Yang and regulates Nutritive and Defensive Qi
Ht7	good point to calm mind

4.acupuncture session 3.11.2018

All eosinophilic granulomas have disappeared almost completely.

Lu7	Master point for the Head and Neck, stimulates Wei Qi, edema
Sp2	fire point, eliminates dampness
Gb39	influential point for Marrow, benefits the Essence, removes obstructions of the channel, especially in the neck area
Th 5	removes obstruction of the channel, subdues Yang (especially Liver yang), distal point for problems along the meridian

Bai Hui	point at which all Yang meridians merge,
GV14 (Da Zhui)	meeting point for all Yang meridians, tonifies Yang and regulates Nutritive and Defensive Qi
CV8 warming with Moxa	strengthen spleen Yang, supplements, warms and stabilizes Yang, problems of gastrointestinal tract

Discussion:

Anouk started acupuncture treatment at the end of September 2017 because of eosinophilic granulomas in the neck area and ventral abdomen area diagnosed at the beginning of August 2017. However, the horse had had them for 5 months. Additionally, the owner claimed horse had several colic (3 years every year at the end of Summer, beginning of Autumn). During the clinical examination a huge crack on Th meridian was found.

After analysis of all the symptoms in Traditional Chinese medicine (tongue, Back Shu and Mu points, hair, body temperature) I made a TCM diagnosis. The TCM diagnosis for this horse was Damp stagnation in several Yang meridians (Stomach, Bladder, Governing Vessel, Large intestine, Gall Bladder and Small intestine) due to Kd and Sp Yang deficiency.

Anouk underwent four acupuncture treatments (one every week) combined with short 10 minute warming of needles with Moxa. I gave horse also Chinese herbs Bu Zhong Yi Qi Tang 6g every day.

After 4 acupuncture sessions, abdominal granulomas disappeared completely, granuloma in neck area almost completely disappeared (only a little hard tissue, which is probably mineralized is still present).

Owner decided to do another 4 acupuncture sessions, each session with one month apart to try to avoid colic in the future. I suggested the owner to feed less grains and to add minerals in horse diet. I also suggested her to give the horse Bu Zhong Yi Qi Tang next year at the beginning of August to tonify Spleen and try to avoid colic.

In this season granulomas did not reappear and Anouk did not have colic.

References:

-Veterinary acupuncture for small animals Christina Matern

-IVAS acupuncture course 2014-2015 in Belgium

-S.M. Reed, W.M. Bayly, D.C.Sellon: Equine internal medicine fourth edition, Elsevier

Biopsy 4.8.2017

Macroscopia:

Submitted were two tissue samples with a size of 1.7 x 1 x 0.8 cm and 2.3 x 1.4 x 0.9 cm originating from the neck and abdomen.

The cut surface showed a white colour and elastic firm consistency.

Eight sites were embedded for the histological examination.

Microscopia:

The following staining was performed according to standard operation procedures: H&E.

I. Neck

In the dermis (and subcutis), a severe infiltration of eosinophils was found, mixed with a granulomatous inflammatory infiltrate.

Collagenolysis was observed in several locations multifocally.

Necrotic collagen fibers were shrunken, fragmented, hypereosinophilic and surrounded by degranulated eosinophils (flame figures).

There was mild granulation tissue formation. The margins of the examined locations were not clean in all sites.

II. Abdomen

Similar as described in I.

Giemsa: negative

Diagnosi:

I+II. Eosinophilic granulomatous dermatitis

Valutazione:

I+II.

Equine eosinophilic granuloma is the most common equine cutaneous nodular disease. The etiology is unknown.

An underlying hypersensitivity, especially to insect bites, have been suggested. The pressure of the saddle can also possibly play a role in development of these lesions on the back. In addition, eosinophilic granulomas have been described in association with silicone coatings on needles at injection sites.

The nodules can be single or multiple. The lesions are usually non-pruritic and focused on areas of necrotic collagen fibers which frequently show mineralization.