Case Report: Use of Gastroscopic Food Test as a Rapid Procedure in Diagnosing Food Hypersensitivity (Rice and Wheat) in an Atopic Dog

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(Received: September 4, 2000. Accepted: October 19, 2000.)

ABSTRACT A dog affected with food hypersensitivity with concurrent atopic dermatitis is presented. A 2 year-old male mongrel was presented with acute vomiting, diarrhea, facial and pedal swelling which were induced one hour after certain food was ingested at two separate episodes. Although gastrointestinal upsets were improved by intake of the elimination diet, pruritus remained. Gastroscopic food test performed. The condition of hypersensitivity to rice and noodle was confirmed immediately under visual aid of gastroscopy. Gastroscopic food test could be applied as a rapid procedure of dietary provocation in diagnosing food hypersensitivity in dogs. [Lien YH, and Huang HP. Case Report: Use of Gastroscopic Food Test as a Rapid Procedure in Diagnosing Food Hypersensitivity (Rice and Wheat) in an Atopic Dog. J Chin Soc Vet Sci 26(4): 260-265, 2000. *Correspondence author TEL: (02) 2739 6828 ext. 4130, Fax: (02) 2735 5807, E-mail: hph@tpts5.seed.net.tw]

Keywords: Gastroscopic food test, Food hypersensitivity, Canine

INTRODUCTION

Diagnosis of food hypersensitivity in dogs usually requires dietary elimination and provocation tests [3,11]. During elimination trial, pruritus is the major clinical sign for evaluation [11]. However, presence of concurrent pruritic dermatoses, such as atopy, might be difficult in interpreting the results of elimination tests. Conventional procedure for diagnosing food hypersensitivity is usually time consuming. A minimum of 4-5 weeks is required to complete the each single diet ingredient test before results can be expected [6]. Due to the laborious procedures required in diagnosing food hypersensitivity, intragastric provocation under endoscopic control was introduced 15 years ago [7]. The purpose of this article was to report the application of gastroscopic food test (GSFT) as a rapid procedure of dietary provocation in diagnosing food hypersensitivity in an atopic dog.

CASE REPORT

A 2 year-old male mongrel was presented with acute vomiting and diarrhea. Gastrointestinal upsets were developed after facial and pedal swelling, which were induced one hour after certain food was ingested in two separate episodes over a period of 6 weeks. During consultation, the dog was chewing and licking his paws consistently (Fig. 1). Four months prior to the present admission, condition of atopy of the dog was diagnosed using intradermal skin tests; he was allergic to Arizona cypress pollens and house dust mites, Dematophagoides pteronyssinus.