LACTOFERRICIN TOPICAL EMULSION FOR THE TREATMENT OF ATOPIC AND FOLDS CANINE DERMATITIS: PRELIMINARY DATA

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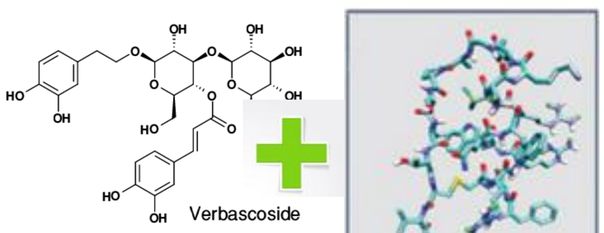
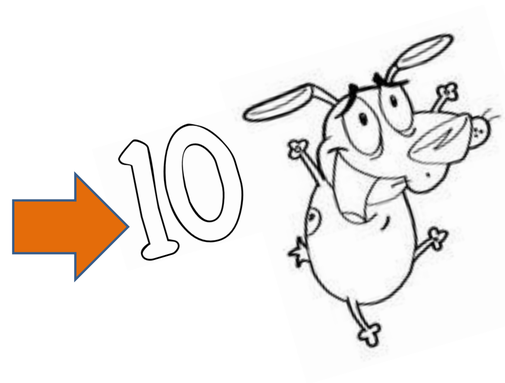
Introduction:

Atopic and folds dermatitis are associated with high numbers of yeasts and bacteria on the skin surface. Generally topical antiseptics and anti inflammatory treatments are required. The present study evaluated the potential beneficial role of a topical emulsion containing lactoferricin 7.5%, verbascoside 0.1% and glycerophosphoinosotol-lysine 2% in dogs affected by dermatitis

Material and Methods:





Ten dogs were included according to good general practice guidelines. The emulsion was daily applied using one pump spray at 10 cm of distance. Animal were clinically evaluated at day 0 and 14 using Canine Atopic Dermatitis Extent and Severity Index (CADESI) and visual scale (VAS) score. Cytological smears were also done. Samples were quantitatively judged for keratinocytes, cocci and *Malassezia* spp. presence using a semi-quantitative score method (0:<5/100x; 1: 5-10/100x; 2:10-20/100x; 3: 20-40/100x; 4: >40/100x). Descriptive statistical analysis was performed. The Wilcoxon signed rank test for paired samples was used to determine the mean differences between evaluated parameters before and after treatment (P<0.05).

Results :

Mean0	T0	T14
CADESI (P=0.007)*	6.90	2.10
VAS (P=0.016) *	4.30	3.10
KERATINOCYTES (P=0.002) *	2.90	1.20
COCCI (P=0.008) *	2.00	0.80
Malassezia spp (P=0.063)	0.80	0.40

A negative trend of the mean of *Malassezia* spp. was observed (0.80 and 0.40) even if the differences were not statistically significant (P=0.063).

Conclusions:

The present research, even if it was an uncontrolled study performed on a small number of dogs, suggests that daily applications of tested emulsion are effective in reducing bacterial overgrowth and clinical signs in skin folds and atopic dermatitis. Further studies on a large number of dogs are needed following this pilot study to confirm these results.

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