



Management of Canine Parvo Virus with Dry Needle Acupuncture Technique with Western Treatment-An Alternative Approach

D T Kaarthick^{1*} and S VishnuPriya²

¹Chief Consultant, Saisha Pet Speciality Hospital, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India

²Consultant, Saisha Pet Speciality Hospital, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India

*Corresponding Author: DT Kaarthick, Chief Consultant, Saisha Pet Speciality Hospital, Chennai, Tamilnadu, India.

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Abstract

Infectious diseases in canines pose significant health challenges, often requiring a multifaceted approach to treatment. While conventional medicine plays a pivotal role in managing these diseases, complementary therapies such as veterinary acupuncture have gained attention for their potential benefits. The objective of the study is to show how Veterinary acupuncture is useful in management of infectious diseases in canines. The study contains the acupuncture diagnosis, diagnosis method and treatment strategy for canine parvo virus patient. One canine patient was chosen which was affected by Canine parvo virus. In this case the patient was treated with both the dry needle acupuncture technique along with the antibiotic therapy for a stipulated period of time were used. The use of acupuncture technique has deliberately reduced the usage of antibiotics and the patients had a faster functional recovery.

Keywords: Canine Acupuncture; Acupuncture; Alternate Therapy for Infectious Disease; Canine Parvo Virus Enteritis; Veterinary Acupuncture; Dry Needle Acupuncture Therapy in Canines

Introduction

Infectious diseases in canines are a common and serious concern for both pet owners and veterinarians. These diseases, caused by various pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites, can lead to a wide range of clinical signs and complications. While conventional treatments, including antibiotics and antivirals, remain the cornerstone of infectious disease management in dogs, complementary therapies like acupuncture have garnered interest for their potential role in improving treatment outcomes. The acupuncture is the ancient traditional Chinese medicine. Acupuncture is a science that sees a disease as an imbalance or disharmony in the body. To harmonize them needles are used in the acupoints. Each of these acupoints has a name and different functions. When we insert the needle in the acupoint, a stimulus is generated, which creates a curative effect. In traditional Veterinary Chinese medicine, deriving a diagnosis is a key factor in achieving the curative effect. There are different methods of diagnosis viz., yin and yang theory, the five-element theory and the circadian clock. In this

study we have used the five-element theory for the diagnosis. The treatment strategy varies according to the diagnosis. The five element theory follows 2 cycles viz., Sheng cycle (generation cycle) and Ko cycle (control cycle). As the name indicates one element is having tonifying or control effect on other element. The five elements are fire, earth, metal, water and wood. Each element is having a solid organ and a hollow organ. Fire element contains Heart- small intestine and Pericardium- triple heater, Earth element contains Spleen- Stomach, Metal element contains Lung-Large intestine, Water element contains Kidney- urinary bladder, Wood element contains Liver- gallbladder [1]. Let us see how the Canine Parvo Virus has been treated using an alternative approach.

Bacteria and viruses in relation to wind

Western medicine sees infectious diseases are being caused by bacteria and viruses. Chinese medicine sees them as an exterior climatic factor. The ancient Chinese character for 'Wind' includes an 'insect' (i.e a small organism carried by the wind and causing dis-

ease equivalent to modern bacteria and viruses).

Canine parvo virus

History

The canine patient name Caesar was presented at Saisha Pet Specialty Hospital, Chennai, Tamilnadu on 6th Feb 2021, with the history of continuous bloody diarrhea and vomiting for past one day. The patient blood sample was sent for PCR diagnosis. The PCR results found positive for Canine Parvo virus. The Patient was treated immediately with intravenous fluids, antibiotic, antimicrobial and antiemetics. Simultaneously, the patient was also given with dry needle acupuncture therapy.

Western diagnosis

Canine Parvo virus.

Eastern/TCVM Diagnosis

Spleen Qi (energy) deficiency [4].

According to the traditional Chinese methods the spleen is responsible for restoring the function of the gastro intestinal system and holding the blood in the blood vessels. Therefore the symptom

of vomiting and bloody diarrhea indicates the spleen has the less energy to control the same. Hence it is essential to tonify the spleen using the acupuncture dry needle and at the specific acupoints.

The examination of back shu and mu points reveals sensitive on Bl 20, Bl 21, Bl 17, CV 6. The cause can be the pathological precursors.

Western Treatment

- Ringers lactate -50 ml
- Metrogyl -40 ml
- Ceftriaxone Tazobactam- 250 mg
- Pantoprazole -20 g Twice daily
- Amikacin 250 mg once daily

Eastern/TCVM treatment

Dry needle acupuncture treatment using Cloud and Dragon 0.20 mm x 13 mm placed at depth of 5mm using an even needle technique at all points for 10 minutes.

Principles- five element theory

Sheng cycle (Generation cycle) [1]

The picture indicates the five elements and each has zhang (sol-

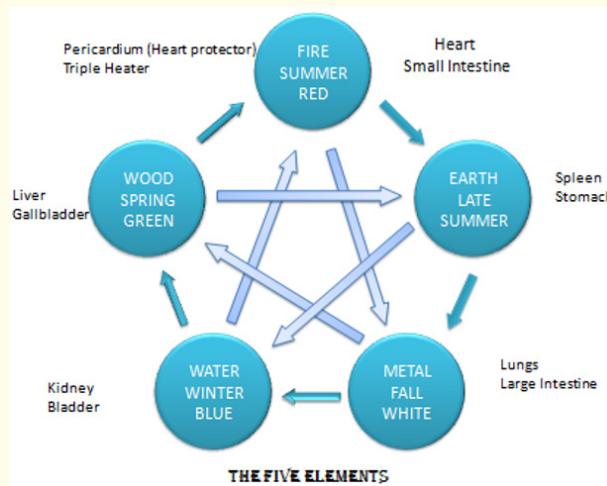


Figure 1: The five Elements and their respective organs.

id) and fu (hollow) organ associated with the element. For eg- Earth is the element and the zhang fu organs associated are spleen and stomach respectively. The mother of Earth element is Fire and Son of Earth element is the metal, the grandmother of Earth is wood and grandson of earth is water element. Hence it illustrates each organ or element is having influence on the other.

In this treatment strategy is based on the Sheng or generation

cycle. As the name indicates the one element tonifies or stimulates the other. In this case the TCVM diagnosis is Spleen Qi deficiency in order to tonify the spleen the fire element to be stimulated [1].

Points used and their anatomical descriptions and their func-

tions [4].

Acupoints	Anatomical description	Functions
Bl 20, bilaterally	On the dorsolateral aspect of the spine, 1.5 cun (1.5 cun = width of two fore fingers) lateral to the caudal border of the dorsal spinous process of T12	Back shu association point for the spleen Spleen deficiency, vomiting, watery or bloody diarrhea, anaemia.
Bl 21, bilaterally	On the dorsolateral aspect of the spine, 1.5 cun lateral to the caudal border of the dorsal spinous process of T13	Back shu association point for the stomach Gastrointestinal disorders, vomiting, abdominal pain.
Sp 2 Da-du	On the medial side of the pelvic limb distal to the metatarsophalangeal joint on the medial side of the 2 nd digit	Fire point- mother or tonification point for the deficiency disease pattern Spleen Qi deficiency, diarrhea, abdominal pain.
Pc 6 Nei- guan	On the medial side of the thoracic limb, 3 cun proximal to the transverse carpal crease, in the groove between the flexor muscles.	Master point for the chest and cranial abdomen. Strong point for vomiting and nausea.
St 25 Tian- shu	On the ventral abdomen, 2 cun lateral to the umbilicus, in the center of the rectus abdominis muscle	Alarm point for Large intestine. Controls diarrhea and vomiting.
Li 11-Qu-chi	On the lateral side of the thoracic limb at the lateral end of the cubital crease, halfway between the lateral epicondyle of the humerus and the biceps tendon with the elbow flexed.	Tonification point for general deficiency pattern disease.
Si 6 Yang- lao	On the lateral side of the thoracic limb distal to the tip of the ulna, on the cranial edge of the ulnaris lateralis muscle.	Xi cleft point of the small intestine Used for the bleeding condition in the small intestine.

Table 1

Treatments

The dry needle technique was followed in 2 sessions

- **1st session on 7thFeb 2021**

Sp 2, PC 6, St 25 were used.

- **2nd session on 9thFeb 2021**

Sp 2, Bl 20(bilaterally), Bl 21(bilaterally), Pc 6, St 25, Li 11, Si 6 were used.



Figure 2: Acupoint Pericardium 6 (Pc 6) being needled.

Result

The first session was given after the 3rd Intravenous therapy that is on 2nd day of the course of the treatment. The owner reported that Caesar vomits 6 times/day and 5 times loose stools after the 1st day of treatment. After the first session, the vomiting was considerably reduced to 2 times/day and no loose stools as reported by the owner.

The second session was given on 4th day of treatment course. Again the session was done after the intravenous therapy. After the second session the vomiting reduced to 1 time a day no loose stools. The time duration for both the sessions was 10 minutes.

Though the intravenous injections were continued upto 5 days to complete the course. By 5th day Caesar showed much improvement and showed tendency to eat solid food with no vomiting and diarrhea as reported by the owner.

Discussion

The use of Spleen 2 point is very important to tonify the spleen which is responsible for GI tract functional restoration [1]. Spleen 2 is the fire point in the earth meridian and since the fire element tonifies the earth element dry needling at this point is very important. The needling at back shu points viz. Bl 20 and Bl 21 moves the Qi in the spleen and stomach meridian respectively [4]. The use of Li 11 is very essential for any deficiency pattern [4]. The other points were used as per the symptoms of the disease.

Conclusions

The use of integrative method which is defined as combining acupuncture dry needling therapy with the western treatment shows the following conclusions.

- **Reduction in Antibiotic Usage:** The integrative approach has led to a reduction in the use of antibiotics or the duration of antibiotic courses. This is significant because overuse of antibiotics can lead to antibiotic resistance and other health concerns.
- **Prevention of Antibiotic Sensitivity:** By reducing the use of antibiotics, the integrative method is believed to help prevent patients from developing antibiotic sensitivity. Antibiotic sensitivity can result from prolonged or unnecessary antibiotic use and may lead to adverse reactions.
- **Quick Functional Recovery:** The conclusion suggests that the integrative approach has resulted in a quicker functional recovery for patients. This could imply that patients treated with this method experience a faster return to their normal level of health and functioning.

It's important to note that while this conclusion presents potential benefits of the integrative approach, more comprehensive research and clinical studies would be needed to establish the effectiveness of this method, particularly in specific medical conditions.

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