Diagnosis and Treatment of Cutaneous Coenurosis in a Sheep

R. Ravi, M. Ranjithkumar, M. Saravanan, S. Krishnakumar, K. Jayalakshmi and S. Kavitha
Department of Medicine, VCRI, Orathanadu

Coenurosis is a rare infection caused by the larval stage of the tapeworm, Taenia multiceps (also referred to as Coenurus cerebralis), a platyhelminth belonging to class Cestoda. The adults of Taenia spp. live in the intestines of dogs and other canines and discharge eggs in their faces, which are then ingested by grazing animals, usually sheep. A two years old non-descript female sheep brought to the Orathanadu veterinary college and research institute teaching hospital with the history of swelling on the right shoulder region. Clinical examination revealed soft, fluid filled fluctuating mass. Exploratory radiography and ultrasound confirmed the fluid filled mass. The animal treated by surgical removal of cyst with the help of local anaesthesia. Diagnosis made by microscopical examination which revealed Coenuri stage of adult worm of Taenia spp. The animal was treated with praziquantel at a dose rate of 100mg/kg body weight. An uneventful recovery was noticed with absence of fecal egg.