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Concurrent coinfections in dogs detected by serology during a survey for Rickettsia Rickettsii: results from 1,093 serum samples collected in Italy

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ABSTRACT

An high incidence of seroconversions to Rickettsia rickettsii (etiological agent of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, RMSF) in samples collected in dogs coming from all over Italy has been recently described. From this preliminary study, it appeared of great interest the presence of concurrent bacterial tick born diseases (TBDs) and protozoal infections in dogs seropositive to R. rickettsii. 1,621 canine serum were screened for one or more TBDs, such as R. rickettsii (or related disease) Ehrlichia canis (Canine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis, CME), and the agent of Canine Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis/Human Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis (CGE/HGE). In this study we included serology study on Leishmania infantum. Main results are the following: among 1,621 samples, 1,093 dogs were seropositive to R. rickettsii (68.5%). Among these samples, 928 were tested also for CME and 389 were positive (41.9%), 138/205 (67.3%) were positive for CGE/HGE, 400 were tested for leishmaniosis (209 seropositive, 52.2%). So we had the following combination: 189 samples tested for RMSF, CME, and CGE/HGE (69 positive, 36.5%); 320 samples tested for RMSF, CME, and leishmaniosis (75 positive, 23.4%); 37 samples tested for RMSF, CGE/HGE and leishmaniosis (15 positive, 40.5%); and finally 36 samples tested for RMSF, CME, CGE and leishmaniosis (7 positive, 19.4%). Considering that cross reactions are not expected for these infections and the high number of determinations carried out, we could state that exposure to various TBDs and leishmaniosis is a common event for Italian dogs. Concurrent infections can cause atypical and/or chronic state of disease and treatment can be often unsuccessful.

parole chiave

Concurrent coinfections. Dog. Serology Rickettsia Rickettsii

schede autori LUBAS GEORGE