188-532 Bovine Papillomatosis in Northwest Croatia - report of two severe cases

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Bovine papillomatosis is a common viral disease of the skin, mostly of young cattle, manifested as benign tumors or warts. The disease is caused by contagious bovine papillomavirus (BPV) that has six serotypes hitherto described, respectively (Jarett et al., 1984). Hereby we described two cases of severe bovine papillomatosis occurred in northwest Croatia during 2000. The first case was registered in one Holstein heifer, aged 15 months suffered from generalized papillomatosis with multiple papillomas, from 0.5 to 50 mm in diameters, disseminated on the ears, head, neck shoulders, abdomen, udder and perigenitaly. The second case was registered in 4 year old dairy Simental cow with multiple papillomas (0.5-30 mm) on the head, neck, shoulder and udder. The diagnosis of bovine papillomatosis was done from the presenting clinical signs, because the structure of the papillomas on the skin was easily observed and identified. From each animal a few papillomas was surgically removed in order to confirm the diagnosis by histopathology and for preparing an autogenous vaccine (modified method according to Hunt, 1984). Furthermore, a tumor was taken in order to detect BPV in supernatant of dissected and homogenized tissue. In both cases histopathology revealed papillomatosis with superficial keratosis. In tumor tissue obtained from dairy cow the virions that were very similar to BPV were found by electron microscopy. The animals were treated successfully by autogenous vaccine injected in doses of 10 ml administered s/c and i/c and twice revaccinated in 10 day intervals. Prior the vaccination, every time the immunomodulator Baypamun (Bayer Pharma, Germany) was administered in doses of 2 ml s/c. Regression of papillomas in both cases occurred about third week after the treatment started and after 6 weeks the animals were completely healed.

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