



Successful Management of Crop Infection in a Parrot Chick

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Abstract

Crop or ingluvies is a muscular pouch like structure acts an important part of digestive tract of avian species, which helps to store the food prior to digestion. Crop infection is very common in pet birds, mostly in baby birds. A 25 days old parrot was presented to TVCC, W.B.U.A.F.S., Kolkata with a history of inappetence from three days, regurgitation and diarrhoea. On the basis of history and clinical examination, the case was diagnosed as crop infection. The bird was treated with combination of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid @ 100 mg/kg body weight along with metoclopramide @ 0.5 mg/kg body weight, orally twice daily for five consecutive days. Remission of clinical sign and improvement of health condition was noted one-week post treatment.

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Introduction

Crop or ingluvies is a muscular pouch like structure located at the base of the neck above the top of the chest or sternum [1]. It is simply enlargement of esophagus, which acts an important part of digestive tract of avian species functions as storage place for food prior to digestion. Crop infections are very common in pet birds, mostly in hand-fed baby birds. As crop is a part of the digestive tract, causes of infection might be same that infect other areas of gastro-intestinal tract. The crop infection

is also be denoted by the term Sour crop because the infection causes the crop to “shut down” and the food content in the crop become sour. There are many causes of crop infection including obstruction, improper feeding, viral infection, bacterial infection, protozoal infection, fungal or yeast infection, metabolic diseases, toxins [2,3]. Most of the birds with crop infection show the sign of regurgitation, vomition, diarrhoea, over distension of crop, unwillingness of feeding, depression. After proper diagnosis if treated early, crop infection not usually fatal [4].



History and observations

A 25 days old parrot chick was presented to TVCC, W.B.U.A.F.S., Kolkata (West Bengal) with a history of inappetance from three days, regurgitation and diarrhoea. Physical examination revealed the over distension of crop, excessive sleepiness and depression.

Treatment & discussion

On the basis of history and clinical examination, the case was diagnosed as crop infection that occurs due to improper feeding. The bird was treated with combination of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid @ 100 mg/kg body weight along with metoclopramide @ 0.5 mg/kg body weight, orally twice daily for five consecutive days. Remission of clinical signs and improvement was observed within one week of the treatment.

Crop infection is a non-specific disease of pet birds. It is not usually fatal if treated early after proper diagnosis. In hand-reared baby bird, it develops due to improper feeding technique. However, in adult birds it also occurs as a result of infections or diseases [1]. Treatment of crop infection in parrot depends on the cause of condition. In the present study, the baby bird is treated with antibiotic therapy to prevent the infection and antiemetic drug is given to stop the regurgitation. The owner is advised to withhold the solid food and give the liquid diet only to the parrot.

Conclusion

Crop infection is a non-specific, serious and life-threatening condition of pet birds. But the disease is not fatal if treated properly after diagnosis.

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