

Chemo-Therapeutic management of foot abscess in female Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

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Indian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) are commonly used for timber logging, transportation of material and for religious purpose in Indian temples (Arunacalam *et al.*, 2007). Like other domestic animals the elephants are also exposed to many of the foreign bodies like sharp stones, nails, wires etc. The animal needs an emergency and critical care for its prevention of secondary infection and normal motion. In this report the case of foot abscess in female Asian elephant has been presented. A female, Asian elephant of 58 years age and approximately 5000-6000kg body weight was reported to the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Anjora, Durg, (C.G.) with the complaint of traumatic injury and inability to bear weight on its right hind limb. Clinical examination of the foot revealed pain, swelling, abnormal motion (moving slowly) and drainage of pus with foul smell was noted. Based on the history and clinical examination, tentative diagnosis of the case was made as foot abscess.

The wound was suspected to be two weeks old. Wound was examined for presence of any foreign body. No metallic object was noted. Then the wound was cauterized with 2% copper sulphate solution and dressed with hydrogen peroxide and turpentine oil. The wound cavity was irrigated with 5% povidone-iodine lotion and painted with silver sulphadiazine ointment. Other medicines administered were Intacef- Tazo® 5 gm, Melonex® - 30ml and Isoflud® - 10 ml. intramuscularly at different sites for 5 days. It was reported that the animal continued to improve and became much brighter and active over next 25 days.

Singh *et al.*, (2010) reported the frequency distribution of the foot ailments in camp elephants to be 62%, 25% and 12.5% for split nails, foot abscess and crack-sole and recovered after 20-25, 15-20 and 30 days of treatment respectively. Many workers (Olivet *et al.*, 2003; Wayne *et al.*, 2008) have managed various foot ailments in elephants by the use of different drugs but with variable success rates. Kay (2003) observed foot affection more in domestic elephants than free ranging wild elephants. Asian elephants in captivity generally needs more foot care than African elephants (Singh *et al.*, 2010). Thus it is concluded that foot abscess can be comfortably managed by medicinal therapy in Elephants.

References

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Fig. 1 The foot abscess with drainage of pus



Fig. 2 The foot abscess after treatment

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