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Laboratory diagnosis of immune-mediated hemolytic anemia

Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) is a condition where the patient's immune system begins attacking its own red blood cells. It is the result of a type II antibody-mediated immune response directed against molecules expressed on the surface of erythrocytes. IMHA may occur as a primary disease without apparent cause or it may be secondary to another systemic insult. In secondary IMHA, RBC destruction occurs as a consequence of the immune system reacting to some condition being activated by an infectious agent, drug or toxin. There are several goals in evaluating patients with IMHA. First, the diagnosis must be confirmed; secondly, other conditions that cause IMHA and require specific treatment must be ruled out and finally, prognostic and complicating factors must be evaluated. Most patients evaluated for IMHA will need the following tests: Complete blood count, chemistry profile, slide agglutination test; Coombs' test, coagulation testing, abdominal ultrasound, chest X-rays, urinalysis, infectious disease and anti-nuclear antibody titers, besides bone marrow examination in rare cases. Most cases of IMHA can be diagnosed on blood smear examination, saline agglutination test and direct Coombs' test. IMHA occurs with greater frequency in cocker spaniels, Old English sheepdogs, Retrievers and standard poodles but any breed of dog may be affected. Middle-aged, entire female animals have increased risk of developing the disease. In our experience, it has also been recorded in cow, buffalo, horse and big cats, although diagnostic criteria somewhat differ. Under field conditions, it is a major cause of severe acute anemia but is generally under diagnosed.

Biography

Naresh Kumar Sood has completed his PhD at Royal Veterinary College (Sweden), Fellow, IAVP, Diplomate, ICVP with 30 years of research and academic experience. He is currently working as a Professor and In-charge at Centralized Diagnostic Laboratory. He has 199 Research publications besides 41 technical publications, 47 lead papers, 3 review articles and chapters in 4 books and guided 9 Masters' and 2 PhD students. He is the Member of 12 professional societies and Headed 9 research projects. He has won over 40 research and teaching awards, comprising 10 student awards and he is a Reviewer for several international and national journals.

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