

Moderator: have you seen this disease before in this area is it common here?

Respondent: yes, it's common here. It's called epizootic lymphangitis.

Moderator: what will the local people call it?

Respondent: they call it nidift, biche in local name.

Moderator: what is the cause of the disease?

Respondent: it's called by fungus.

Moderator: what do the owners say about the cause of the disease?

Respondent: it depends on the area. In this area they say it's caused from the "biche"

Translator: they know it's common here. And they call it EZL. And it's from fungal the local name that the community call with is called biche in Afan Oromo and nidift in Amharic.

Moderator: what proportion of the horse had this disease?

Respondent: there are more horses affected with this disease.

Moderator: would you say it's 50% of horses come to see you? 80% or 20% roughly?

Respondent: 15% of the horses coming here are affected with the disease.

Moderator: do they present the horse at the early stage or late stages of the disease?

Respondent: they bring most of the horses at the old stage.

Moderator: how do you treat the horses?

Respondent: if it's an old stage we can't treat. It can't be healed. If it's early we will try our best.

Moderator: what do you use to treat the disease?

Respondent: we use the common antibiotics.

Moderator: wich antibiotics?

Respondent: we use the penistrip.

Moderator: do you give that in injection form or you put it on?

Respondent: it's in injection form. But if the wound is just like this we will advise them to use the topical ointment.

Moderator: what topical ointment?

Respondent: like the ketoconazole the antifungal from the human pharmacy.

Moderator: do you write prescription for that ointment?

Respondent: yea.

Moderator: do you think the owners have issue with the accessing those ointment? Or accessing enough of it?

Respondent: if it's kind of early cases we treat it but if it's more of lesions and extensive we will tell them the future of the horse.

Moderator: what do you recommend if it's unlike stage?

Respondent: we will advise them to euthanize. But most of the people don't have the awareness. And they will simply release them on the street. So most of the horses affected with this disease will be found on the street.

Moderator: so do you euthanize horses here?

Respondent: just we advise the owners to get them euthanized.

Moderator: will they do that by themselves?

Respondent: there are some other private vets. Though we advise them to euthanize it's not applicable here in our area. That is why most of the horses are found on the street.

Moderator: do you know the non-governmental personnel euthanizing the horses?

Respondent: I know little.

Moderator: how do they euthanize them?

Respondent: they use drugs for example very toxic drugs. Like the formalin. They will give to the heart directly. But it's not commonly practiced.

Moderator: why do you not offer euthanasia services here?

Respondent: because we don't have those drugs. We have no those facilities. After the euthanasia we need transportation to discard the carcass and we don't have that. That's why we are not euthanizing it here.

Moderator: if you could fulfill all the important thing, like the facilities to do the euthanasia do you think the people will be willing to euthanize their horses?

Respondent: for sure yes. If you give the all information, they will accept our advice and will bring their animals for euthanasia.

Respondent 2: it only takes time and that could happen.

Moderator: can you talk to me how the disease spread between horses?

Respondent: I think it's through direct contact. Also may be through some flies which are the intermediary of the disease. They horses will be confined together eat together, drink together and feed together. Simply transmitted through the contact and insects.

Moderator: do you think there needs to be wound for the transmission of the disease or it can be transmitted through the healthy skin?

Respondent: I don't know exactly. But it needs the wound.

Moderator: what advise will you give to the horse owner to try stop the disease transmit from the horse to horse.

Respondent: our advice if the disease happened in some area, is just to isolate the horse from the other healthy horses. And also giving good management for the horses. And if there is any sign on the horse bringing the horse at early stage to the clinic is what we advise.

Moderator: how often do you meet the horse owners? Will they get the drug and then will not come back? Or they will continuously come to get the drug?

Respondent: for five days it will come here to get the injection treatment.

Moderator: after that do you ask the owner to come back for the follow up?

Respondent: we will tell them to bring back after two week. Just the treatment is progressive. Once they take for the first time depending on the progress of the disease we may again give the injectable ones since our drug is not the direct treatment.

Moderator: so you may be giving the injection for more than five days?

Respondent: it depends on the condition of the horse. By looking the condition of the wound we will adjust the treatment.

Moderator: do you know on average how long you will treat the horse?

Respondent: for a week.

Moderator: do you know if the horse owner had a complaint and coming back for treatment and follow up?

Respondent: the disease is challenging to fully treat and the drug that we administer is not a direct to that disease. There is no complain. Because of the transportation problem our road is very narrow. They complain that they are coming from very long distance to get treatment for their horses. And they complain that they are stopping work because of the problem of the disease.

Moderator: do you think the owners will not complete the course of the treatment because of those difficulties?

Respondent: some people will complete. But the other will stop in the mid because of the obstacle you mentioned. On average it's 50% and we do our best to come and complete the treatment.

Moderator: how effective do you think the treatment is?

Respondent: as we said if it's early stage it will be more effective.

Moderator: what percent of the horses will you think will recover if it's at the early stage? 50% will recover? All will recover?

Respondent: not all of them will recover. But most of them will survive.

Moderator: could you tell me about if you know this is the fungal disease, why do you give the antibiotic? What are you concerned about?

Respondent: just the purpose of giving antibiotic is to prevent the secondary bacterial complications. So that the horse will heal by itself and because the immune system may be more developed if we prevent the horse from the other complications. And will by himself the purpose is just this one.

Moderator: do you think there is side effect with the treatment?

Respondent: sometimes there might be irritation at the site of injection since we will give the treatment for a week. Some other time the horse will not feed or decrease in appetite because of the different complications, like inflammations. This and other complications might happen.

Moderator: do the owners seem concerned about these complications?

Respondent: sometime they will tell us.

Moderator: where do you purchase you antibiotics from?

Respondent: it's provided from government. The other antibiotics will be purchased from the vet pharmacies and the drugs like ketoconazole will be purchased from the human pharmacy. We will prescribe and calculate the dose that we need.

Moderator: do you know there is systemic antifungals provided from the government stock or any private pharmacies?

Respondent: there is no any antifungal drug.

Moderator: if there is systemic antifungals there will you be using that?

Respondent: yes for sure.

Moderator: will you be concerned about the side effect associated with them?

Respondent: as I said we are not familiar with that. But we can know that through process just follow up.

Moderator: do you know there are systemic antifungals from human pharmacies?

Respondent: I don't know. I only two or three in a cream form.

Moderator: do you think there is any issue of resistance with the treatments that you provide for the EZL?

Respondent: there would be resistance. The horse could be treated with the same drug for the other disease. They will come the EZL and we will give the penistrip. And also for other bacterial case we could give the same drug so that may cause the resistance.

Moderator: why do you choose to use the penistrip?

Respondent: its broad spectrum antibiotics so we will give that, it's effective. So the EZL is becoming resistant. So we use the penistrip, its' efficacy is more or less better than the other drugs. It's not an irritant drug.

Moderator: is that only your own experience? Or is it part of the training you are given at the vet school?

Respondent: it's only from our day to day activities and experience.

Moderator: do you think this disease causes any risk to human?

Respondent: I don't think it will cause. Most of our staff are touching and nursing the horse. Until know there is no reported case in human from the horses. I don't think it's not transmitted to humans.

Moderator: so you will not be concerned about touching the wound or washing it?

Respondent: actually we advise the horse to wash with gloves and protecting materials. Even though we are advising them they are not using those protective things. There is no report of this disease transmitted to people. There is no one affected with this disease.

Moderator: why do you advise them to wear glove then?

Respondent: may be as you know different diseases will change their character. There are emerging diseases there. So that could affect humans so it's just a doubt. So we advise for that matter. As you know our community are at lower level of keeping their hygiene and they may not wash their hand and may result in other infection too.

Moderator: do you think the owners are concerned about this disease as risk to themselves?

Respondent: they will ask us to advise them whether it's transmitted or not? And we will tell them not to be in a bare hand when they are washing the horses and treating them. And we don't have any report of being transmitted to people.

Moderator: take a look at this pictures and have you seen case like this?

Respondent: I think I have seen this one the G.

Translator: is it common?

Respondent: it's not common.

Translator: what other case have you seen?

Respondent: I have seen the one wich is on the hand on the personnel cutting people's hair and even the case has made them to cut their hand. "j". And this one is called the "chirt" and it will be widened through time, it's very itching.

Translator: wich other have you seen?

Respondent 1: I have seen this one, "I" they call it kormamu in this area.

Translator: its' a kormamu?

Respondent: yes.

Respondent 3: I also have seen this one. It's called kormamu.

Respondent 2: I also have seen this one people's feet.

Translator: they said that it's not as such common but they have seen all of them. This one from the media. And especially on children.

Moderator: do you think it's a problem for a people?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: what will you do if a family member develop this?

Respondent 1: I will advise them to go to human hospital.

Moderator: do you know any of the traditional treatments for the EZL? Or for any of cases like this?

Respondent: for the "G" and "I", I have heard the traditional treatment. I have forgotten the name of the tree but they will cut the leaves and they will crush and put on the head before that they will shave the hair. And for three and four days. They will put on it and there will be some progress. It's effective. It's not 100% effective but it will have the progress.

Respondent 2: for this one they will use the garlic.

Moderator: is it effective?

Respondent: it will be good, if other things are added on it. It will stop the growth of the fungus.

Moderator: what about for the EZL? Is there any traditional treatments you have heard from the owners?

Respondent: especially for the EZL, there is a meat from the animal called hedgehog. They will give a meat of it after they kill the hedgehog. They believe that it's very effective and they use that. There is also plant used for this purpose. Before one year there was a farmer who brought his horse for other cases, and he saw horse affected with the EZL and he said there is best drug from plant and can totally cure the horse but he was not willing to tell the name of the plant. We are not getting that plant but its' there on different part of the country.

Moderator: are you aware of owners purchasing different drugs without your prescription to treat the EZL?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: do they come to you and say we have purchased drug from human or animal pharmacy and have tried to treat the EZL?

Respondent: yes sometimes.

Moderator: do you know what drugs they have been trying?

Respondent: our farmers and our community will go to the government pharmacies, and also try different traditional treatments before they come to us? They will try their best if they can't find any cure they will come to us.

Moderator: do you know what treatment [NGO] provide for this?

Respondent: yes. Just they will give powder drug its' sodium iodide they bring and it's very effective.

Moderator: why you don't offer the sodium iodide as a treatment here?

Respondent: the government is not giving us this drug and the importers are not importing this drug. It's not found in the government stock.

Moderator: do you know if it's expensive? If you could access it will you be able to purchase it?

Respondent: for sure. Our farmers they can buy it. The cost of one horse is getting higher and they can purchase and use it. Since the horse is valuable and expensive.

Moderator: is the ketoconazole cream that you prescribe from the local pharmacies is very expensive?

Respondent: it's not as such expensive.

Moderator: the farmers don't think it as too expensive, they are happy to buy that treatment?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: what do you think causes this disease in humans?

Respondent: it's just assumption so, I think it's a fungal disease. It may be contact from the dirty area.

Moderator: do you think animal could be a source for any of this diseases?

Respondent: it could be a source because our communities are very close to animals. So it can be transmitted from animals.

Translator: they said that [NGO] is treating this disease with the iodide. Don't you have the iodine tincture here in your clinic?

Respondent: I think it's not as such effective as the iodide but we will use it topically.

Moderator: do you use it for the EZL?

Respondent: yes. They will wash and apply that on.

Moderator: where do they get from the iodine tincture? Do you provide that? Or they will purchase it from somewhere else?

Respondent: sometime we will give them. But if we don't have they will purchase.

Moderator: from the human pharmacy?

Respondent: no from the animal pharmacy.

Moderator: is that expensive?

Respondent: they will get it at fair price.

Moderator: do you treat fungal diseases in other species? Like in cattle? Dog?

Respondent: yes. There are more fungal disease in cattle and dog.

Moderator: what would you treat with?

Respondent: it's dermatophilosis. And we give topical ointment and antibiotic for the secondary bacterial complications.

Moderator: injection antibiotic again?

Respondent: yes.

Moderator: is there anything you want to add in animal antifungals or the treatments or recommendation you want to make?

Respondent 1: just to add something, as you know there are might be prevalent fungal disease we might not be familiar with that. There is a problem of accessibility of drug. We are not familiar with that. The other case is the other disease are getting resistant and resistant. The problem related drug resistance is very huge in our country so what I want to say is the government or other stake holders should get focused and involve in this fungal disease. Although we have a drug for the other bacterial cases. We don't have drug for the fungal cases.

Respondent 2: the drug resistance is very common. We have to work on the accessibility. We need to produce drugs for different fungal cases. We want it and we can't get it. So you should advise them to do on that to produce more antifungal drugs.