

Moderator: so, first of all can I show some pictures, have a look at these. Have you seen in horses this here?

Respondent: in our clinics such like disease are the most common. These cases will come to our clinic for treatment.

Moderator: what is this case called here?

Respondent: in local language we call it “biche” in Afan oromo. In English we call it Epizootic lymphangitis as you know. So the disease is common. It’s very common in Cart horses. The people use the horse as cart horse. And they work in the market area and as you know the disease transmits through the harness and by close contact. So it’s very common in our district. There is also comfort environment for the disease to get transmitted to the others.

Moderator: is it a big problem in the horses will it stop them from working?

Respondent: it’s most common most people who use these horses are very poor. And they will not give rest to the horse. They will use them until the end and until the final stage of the disease. The people’s working opportunity is the most problem in the district.

Moderator: what would you do if the horse like this come to the clinic?

Respondent: first of all when this or other horses come to our clinic is to advise the customers or the animal owners. Not to use it at this time but to make them rest. We clean the wound we infuse the iodine tincture we do use the savlon. And we do such treatments. And we will tell the owners not to use it. And make them rest and follow the medication. They have to bring to our clinic and also separate them from the healthy horses. We advise this. What we do is only using the iodine tincture. We can’t do more than that. We don’t have other drugs. We don’t have the KI. For the secondary bacterial complications, we use the antibiotics. If it’s on the early stage it may recover but if it’s not coming on this stage to the clinic it will pass to worse stage and will go for the Euthanasia with the SPANA group because we don’t have the drug to euthanize the horse.

Moderator: if you can get the potassium iodide or the tincture iodide, does it have a good recovery rate?

Respondent: we get responses from the horse owners, there is the recovery. If the horse is avail clinic at the early stage there will be a recovery also if we apply the iodine tincture there is recovery. But if the horse come late to the clinic, the lymph nodes will be damaged and will not recover. The main problem during the treatment is the owners will not disinfect the harnessing materials so that can still transmit the disease. When we continue to treat the horse may seem it is recovering but after sometime the disease will recur like after a year.

Moderator: where do you get the potassium iodide from?

Respondent: it's available at the human pharmacy. Also it's there in Veterinary pharmacy. When we prescribe they will get it from there.

Moderator: is it expensive for the owners to buy? From the human pharmacy for their horses?

Respondent: as I told you we use the iodine tincture. It's like 13 to 15 Ethiopian birr. I don't know the price of the potassium iodide. Even I don't prescribe the drugs. Only what we do using is the iodine tincture and frequent follow up. That is what we do. I don't see the potassium iodide in the pharmacy.

Moderator: how long will you treat with the iodine tincture?

Respondent: for the iodine treatments we will continue until the swelling of the lymph node decrease, but while we are doing this the owner may stop following up if they see some recovery. Since they are working animals they owners will not have willing to stop working. But we try to go until the animal recover. If we believe that there are no more nodules coming we can then stop the treatment. But to do that the owners are not willing for the long-time treatment because they don't want us to stop the treatment. The owner say they had only one horse and they can't make them rest for long time. They will also say they can't afford the cost of the drugs. That is why the treatment will finally stops.

Moderator: is there any social stigma because of having horse like this?

Respondent: when they see this disease, they will feel something not to use this horse. Some of the people whom they work with in the same group had some awareness regarding the disease. So the guys who had the EZL affected horse will be separated from the group. Some people in the group understand that the horse is affected with the disease because of the poor management of the owner. They will try to separate the horse from their working place, but they can't do that. Since the daily income of the horse owner is dependent on that. They will not separate the horse from the others. So will not accept the idea of the other group of separating from them.

Moderator: when the horse is at the final stage what will happen? Will they euthanize them or they will dump them?

Respondent: as the disease progress to the end, and if the horse owner decided that they can't work with them no more they will leave them alone. They will just stop all the management they used to do before. Housing, watering, feeding and treatment. And will finally leave them on the road. The animal will stay there. They will search for feeding, they will walk on the road. The euthanasia is not accepted in the society because of the culture. For our clinic we don't have the drug and infrastructure also must be available to do this. Also after we euthanize the animal we don't have the transportation cart. To burn it also. We only inform the SPANA and they will try to do that. But the owners will just throw the horse out. If they understand that they will not use these animals anymore.

Moderator: why are they not bringing the horse for euthanasia?

Respondent: they didn't care about the animal welfare....and they will expect something from you if you just killed them they will need compensation. Even if they left it on the street and you

are going to take the horse and euthanize they will expect something from you kind of compensation, we can't do that compensation. And the owners will expect the natural death of the horse. There is no animal welfare application in the community.

Moderator: do you know if there is any risk to the human during handling the horses?

Respondent: in some literature the zoonotic importance of this disease is there.

Moderator: what do you teach the owners about the disease?

Respondent: we will teach them that there is zoonotic importance of the disease.

Moderator: what do you advise them is there any step they can take? Not to get the disease?

Respondent: we will tell them not to touch the horses on bare hands.

Moderator: do you think they are good at following these advices?

Respondent: I don't think they are very good on this. What we can do is just to tell them what they have to do?

Moderator: have you ever seen condition like this in people? Just if you can recognize any?

Respondent: I see for example these one while I am going to the rural area for the vaccination campaign? Notice on the young age group for example this one. But we don't give attention we simply say it's from the sanitation problem. We can see on some humans. We haven't given as such attention. On the rural area also we have seen the symptom on the hair.
Moderator: if a family member of yours had this tomorrow for example what would you do?

Respondent 1: what I can do is to take the family member to the hospital. Ideally we can expect that it is not fungal infection. Also if there are my neighbors I will tell them to go to health center.

Moderator: what would you do if your family member suffer from this?

Respondent 2: I will advise them to contact the physician or the hospital.

Moderator: do you have any antifungals that are used to treat the infections in the people in Ethiopia?

Respondent: if we suspect the dermatophytosis or ring worm we can prescribe to the human pharmacy the ketoconazole. For treatment of some fungal infection. We will use the cream preparations. The other one is the amphotericin B. We haven't any fungal drug in veterinary pharmacy. We do face problems. But the ketoconazole we can get it from the human pharmacy.

Moderator: do you have any recommendation on how we can solve the problem of the availability?

Respondent: actually the drug that we use in our clinic comes from the Oromia regional state. So we have a proposal we included the drugs that we need in the proposal. But they don't bring the drug until the moment. We will ask them why? And they say there are no importers bringing these drugs.

Respondent 2: also In addition to this they say if they bring the drug it will expire there is no demand for the drug.

Moderator: they say there is no demand for this. Can the animal owners get the drug from human or veterinary pharmacy without prescription or there must be a prescription?

Respondent: those drugs we know avail at the animal pharmacy need prescription. There is a prescription. We have to prescribe always.

Moderator: what actually will cause the EZL?

Respondent: it's dimorphic fungal, histoplasmosis.

Moderator: would you ever use ketoconazole and other human antifungals for these cases?

Respondent: we didn't apply for the EZL. Mostly we effort to stop the disease, the nodules and the wound by using the iodine and the other things. But we don't apply the human preparation for this disease.

Moderator: why is that? Is it expensive? Or it's not available?

Respondent: while we are prescribing the owner will worry about the price. Price is one factor. And also the availability of the drug is the other factor.

Moderator: Is there anything else you want to tell us about the antifungal medication here in Ethiopia, that we haven't mentioned?

Respondent: we perfectly have the shortage of the antifungals. We also need some support to get the drug. I think the SPANA has working place here in our district. And also the owner will go to the SPANA if they have such cases, they will prefer SPANA for the treatment. Because they have the drug. They will be happy if they get the drug there. We will also be happy if they have excess of the drug they may share us.

Moderator: do you have any question before we finish?
Respondent 2: Ethiopia is one of the country from the horn of Africa wich is affected by this disease? So we want other country to support to help, to donate for the stopping of this disease.

Respondent 1: we need your final recommendation after the research. If you have the opportunity of availing the drug we expect from you a lot after the end of the research since we have the shortage of the drug.