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Abstract title	Efficacy of a 11% lactoferricin otologic solution in the treatment of bacterial and yeasts otic overgrowth compared to 0.05% chlorhexidine otological solution: a prospective randomized single blinded study
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Abstract text	

Topical therapy with antimicrobial agents is useful in otitis treatment. Due to increase of antibiotic resistance new strategies are needed. Natural antimicrobial peptides may represent future effective drugs.

The objective of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of an 11% lactoferricin otological solution in the treatment of bacterial and yeasts otic overgrowth and to compare it with a commercial chlorhexidine 0.05% solution.

Forty-one dogs with clinical signs of external otitis and bacterial or yeast overgrowth were included. They were randomly assigned to receive either 11% lactoferricin or 0.05% chlorhexidine topical treatment. Otological solutions were applied twice a day for a week and then daily for another week. Clinical and cytological score was assessed at day 1 and day 14. Owners expressed an opinion on the overall efficacy of the products on day 14. Statistical analyses were performed using Wilcoxon's test and T test for paired samples. Results in lesional and cytological score were significative with a $p < 0.05$.

Forty dogs completed the study, 23 in the lactoferricin and 17 in the chlorhexidine group. All 40 dogs were clinically and cytologically cured by day 14 with clinical signs remission and regression of infection ($p < 0.05$). The owners' efficacy score was higher for lactoferricin compared to chlorhexidine.

A solution containing lactoferricin was as effective as chlorhexidine in the treatment of otitis characterized by bacterial or/and yeast overgrowth. Lactoferricin antimicrobial efficacy might even be useful in control of skin infections.

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