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# Programme Proceedings &



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## oral presentations

### THREE CLINICAL CASES OF BABESIA GIBSONI INFECTION IN SERBIA SHOULD WE WORRY?

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**Introduction:** *Babesia gibsoni* is an emerging pathogen detected in erythrocytes of canids. Infection with this protozoon is often asymptomatic, however, the induction of secondary immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) in dogs is a frequent consequence. **Objectives:** This study aimed to describe clinicopathological findings of three cases detected during the autumn and spring season at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia. **Material and Methods:** Three male dogs were presented as referral cases with anemia. Laboratory analysis included complete blood count, blood smear, IMHA diagnostics, and molecular confirmation of the pathogen. **Results:** Pit Bull Terrier (2 yr.) and Shih Tzu (11 yr.) were infected via another dog's bite, while Bulldog (4 yr.) had a history of a tick bite. Small babesia was found on the blood smear of Pit Bull and Shih Tzu, while Bulldog had coinfection with a large babesia. *B. gibsoni* was confirmed with molecular tests in Pit Bull and Shih Tzu. All dogs had IMHA, thrombocytopenia, and monocytosis. Pit Bull and Shih Tzu had a strong regenerative, while Bulldog had a nonregenerative IMHA. All the dogs received imidocarb-dipropionate and a combination of metronidazole, clindamycin, doxycycline, and prednisolone for 3 weeks. After 3 weeks, Shih Tzu had high parasitemia, although the hematocrit reached the lower reference interval. Prednisolone was stopped and azithromycin and atovaquone were introduced, which led to recovery after another 3 weeks of treatment. **Conclusion:** These cases are the first clinical evidence of *B. gibsoni* infection in Serbia. The risk factors are various, and the diagnostics and treatment is complex.



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**Keywords:** *Babesia gibsoni*, anemia, Serbia

**Reference:**

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