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Comparison between an intradermal skin test and allergen-specific IgE-ELISA for canine atopic dermatitis

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Summary

The aim of this study was to compare the results of an intradermal skin test (IDST) with those of an allergen-specific IgE-ELISA in 210 dogs with atopic dermatitis. All the dogs had a clinical diagnosis of atopic dermatitis and underwent an IDST. The sera of all dogs were analysed for allergen-specific IgE by ELISA using the monoclonal antibody D9 against dog IgE. IDST was used as the standard assay. In both methods, the following antigens provided a positive test result: *Dermatophagoides farinae*, *Acarus siro*, *Tyrophagus putrescentiae*, ragweed, mugwort and *Lepidoglyphus destructor*. ELISA had an overall sensitivity of 82.4% and an overall specificity of 93.8%. The overall accuracy of the ELISA was 91.3%. The evaluated monoclonal D9 ELISA was found to be a reliable tool for the diagnosis of those allergens that cause clinical atopy, and can be recommended for use in dogs when immunotherapy is a therapeutic option.