Survey of UK-based veterinary oncologists and clinical pathologists' approach towards diagnostic methods used to diagnose and classify lymphoma

Andrea Mosca¹, Elizabeth Villiers¹, Davide Berlato²

¹ Dick White Referrals, Newmarket, UK

² Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, UK

OBJECTIVES

Recent studies have shown the World Health Organization (WHO) classification scheme for human lymphoma can be applied to dogs. We surveyed UK veterinary oncologists and clinical pathologists to investigate the methods used to diagnose and classify lymphoma.

METHODS

Questionnaires were devised to identify what samples were taken for diagnosis and immunophenotyping and subsequently how the neoplasm is classified. Questionnaires were sent to 49 diplomats working in an oncology service and to 50 clinical pathology diplomats throughout the UK.

RESULTS

The response rate was 57% for oncologists and 62% for clinical pathologists. All of the oncologist respondents always perform cytology and consider it essential. 59% perform immunophenotyping routinely, whilst 37% consider it not essential and 4% perform it rarely or never. 79% sometimes perform histopathology but not as an essential test. The majority of oncologists (65.5%) would like clinical pathologists to classify lymphoma according to WHO classification scheme yet only 14% of oncologists reported the scheme being used. Without knowledge of immunophenotype, 64% of clinical pathologists give a diagnosis of lymphoma without further classification. When immunophenotype is known, 65% report lymphoma as high grade or low grade B or T. Only 17% use the WHO classification.

STATEMENT

The majority of veterinary oncologists questioned in this survey would like to classify lymphoma according to WHO scheme, but do not always supply the necessary samples. Most clinical pathologists do not currently use this WHO classification scheme. Training and education will be required to appreciate the importance of lymphoma classification and how it is performed.

Impact of radiation therapy on bone marrow toxicity in patients treated with concurrent radiation therapy (RT) and vinblastine chemotherapy for mast cell tumours

Katerina Stiborova¹, Elisabetta Treggiari², Laura Blackwood²

¹ Small animal teaching hospital Liverpool, Neston, UK

² Willows veterinary center, Shirley, UK

OBJECTIVES

It is recognised that concurrent chemotherapy and radiotherapy (RT) can improve outcome but also increase toxicity in several human cancers. We aimed to assess whether vinblastine (VBL) myelosuppression was enhanced in mast cell tumour patients receiving concurrent RT, as multimodality therapy is increasingly used in the treatment of high grade mast cell tumours.

METHODS

In this retrospective study, records of 86 dogs receiving vinblastine for treatment of mast cell tumours were reviewed. Group 1 consisted of 43 patients treated with RT (either 12x4Gy on Mon-Wed-Fri or 4x8Gy once weekly) and chemotherapy concurrently. Group 2 received chemotherapy without radiotherapy. Patients in this group were matched in terms of similar age, size, gender and tumour stage to Group 1.

All patients were treated with a standard VBL-P (prednisolone) protocol. Haematology was assessed prior to every chemotherapy treatment, so at weekly intervals. For statistical analysis the baseline haematology (week 1) and haematology the three following weeks (weeks 2–4)

Delivered by BSAVA

Guest (guest)

IP: 3.93.64.190

On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 07:35:11

Oral presentations

were assessed. Side effects were graded using the VCOG criteria.

RESULTS

There were 11 neutropenic events in Group 1 vs. 10 in Group 2 (one dog experienced two neutropenic episodes). All events were VCOG grade 1 or 2. There was one thrombocytopenic event, concurrent with neutropenia,

in Group 2. The majority of neutropenic events occurred at week 2 in both groups. These caused some treatment delays, dose reduction.

STATEMENT

Results of this study are suggestive that RT together with VBL-P chemotherapy is safe and does not increase the risk of bone marrow toxicity.

The use of complementary and alternative therapies in dogs and cats with cancer in the UK

Jessica Barnes¹, Nicholas Bacon¹, Jane Thomas²

- 1 Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology & Soft Tissue Hospital, Guildford, UK,
- 2 Harper Adams University, Newport, UK

OBJECTIVES

To determine the usage of complementary and alternative therapies in dogs and cats with cancer at a UK oncology hospital. To identify whether a need exists for veterinary professionals to be more aware of these therapies.

METHODS

Clients presenting for oncology consultations with their dog or cat were asked to complete a questionnaire. The data are presented as counts and percentages and chi-square was used to evaluate significant data.

RESULTS

Study population: 140
Complementary and alternative therapy usage: 38.6%
Most popular therapies used: nutritional supplements (25%), probiotics 20%
Reasons for usage: improve general wellbeing (38%), improve immune function (16%), cure cancer (4%)
Sources of information used to instigate a therapy: Internet (34%), Veterinary Surgeon (30%)
Vet aware of usage: Yes (27%), No (16%), Don't know (7%)
Owner's belief on whether the vet would be supportive of usage: Yes (27%), No (4%), Don't know (69%)
Participants level of interest in these therapies: Strong (37%), Average (56%), No (7%)
Participants using these therapies were predominantly women with an average/strong level of interest
Participants using these therapies themselves were more likely to be using these therapies in their pet

STATEMENT

Veterinary professionals need to be aware that complementary and alternative therapies may be being used in approximately one third of pets with cancer. Regardless of personal opinions, clinicians must understand the actions and possible interactions of these treatments. To prevent concealment of treatment by the owner from the vet, an open and honest approach is recommended.

Prognostic utility of the modified Glasgow prognostic score in dogs with lymphoma undergoing treatment with chemotherapy

Marie Vagney¹, Robert Harrand², Kevin Slater², Robert Foale¹, Simon Tappin¹

- 1 Dick White Referrals, Cambridge, UK
- 2 Avacta Animal Health, Wetherby, UK

OBJECTIVES

To determine if the modified Glasgow prognostic score (mGPS) provides prognostic information for dogs undergoing treatment for canine lymphoma.

METHODS

Overall median survival times (MSTs) were calculated for 15 dogs with lymphoma treated with a variety of induction and rescue protocols between January 2011 and December 2012. The mGPS was calculated for each dog at presentation as follows: Score 0 CRP<20mg/l and albumin>25g/l, Score 1 CRP>20mg/l