this revealed suppurative meningoencephalitis. Postoperatively, were administered opioids, NSAID's and antibiotics.

RESULTS

After 24 h, the neurological deficits had returned and appetite was good. By 48 h menace response was considerably improved. By three days all neurological deficits

had resolved, and the cat was discharged. Repeat examinations revealed an unremarkable recovery and there had been no recurrence of signs in the 18 months since surgery.

STATEMENT

The use of omentum could apply in cases of encephalitis do not respond to antimicrobials.

An evaluation of attitudes and the level of compliance of a surgical safety checklist used for small animal surgery

Hayley Kilbane, Mickey Tivers

Langford Vets, University of Bristol, Bristol, North Somerset, UK

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study was to investigate the attitudes of theatre staff to the use of a surgical safety checklist and the perceived level of compliance.

METHODS

A questionnaire was designed and distributed to theatre staff. The questionnaire was completed by a range of theatre personnel, including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses

and theatre assistants, to obtain responses on their attitudes and the level of compliance of the hospital's surgical checklist. Responses to each question were allocated a five-point scale from 1 = Strongly disagree to 5 = Strongly agree.

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the data.

RESULTS

Responses were obtained from 36 theatre staff. The majority of staff (77%) strongly agreed that they believed the checklist improved patient safety. The majority (77%) also strongly agreed that the checklist was used for every procedure in theatre. However, only 19% of staff strongly agreed that when the checklist is being carried out, everyone stops and listens. Only 58% strongly agreed that the surgeons were in full support of the checklist. Staff stated that barriers to the use of the checklist included a lack of staff (27%), a lack of staff assertiveness (22%) and lack of time (19%).

STATEMENT

Although staff believed that the use of a surgical checklist improves patient safety there are a number of barriers to its effective use. Staff training should focus on overcoming these to improve the effectiveness of the checklist.

Salivary cortisol as a screening test for endocrine diseases in dogs and cats

**Hannah Zheng^{1,2}, Carolina Arenas^{2,4},
Helen Evans³, Mike Herrtage²**

1 Medivet, London, UK

2 The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, UK

3 NationWide Specialist Laboratories, Pampisford, Cambridge, UK

4 PETSАVERS, Quedgeley, Gloucester, UK

OBJECTIVES

Salivary cortisol measures free cortisol and follows the fluctuations of serum cortisol. The aims of this study were to measure salivary cortisol in small animals and to determine if there was a good correlation between salivary and serum cortisol.

METHODS

The pilot study included 5 dogs and 5 cats to test four different methods of saliva collection: filter paper, cotton wool balls, 6-inch ('small Q-tip') and 5-inch ('large Q-tip') single cotton wool tip applicators. For the main part of the study, animals were included if their diagnostic work-up required a serum sample or an ACTH stimulation test. Saliva samples were frozen at -25°C after collection. Samples were thawed and centrifuged (20 minutes, 3000rpm, 4°C) and salivary cortisol was determined

Delivered by BSA

Guest (guest)

IP: 52.87.193.239

On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 15:08:40

Oral presentations

using a commercial high sensitivity EIA kit (No. 1-3002, Salimetrics, LLC).

RESULTS

All dog pilot study samples and 3/5 feline samples yielded sufficient saliva for analysis. The large Q-tips yielded more saliva in dogs whereas small Q-tips were better in cats. Forty-one animals (38 dogs and 3 cats) were included in the study and 48 samples were obtained for analysis. Of these, 10 dog samples yielded

insufficient saliva. There was a weak positive correlation between serum and salivary cortisol ($r_s=0.386$, $P=0.026$). There was a strong positive correlation between post ACTH serum and salivary cortisol ($r_s=0.975$, $P=0.005$).

STATEMENT

Salivary cortisol is correlated with serum cortisol. It has the potential to be used in the diagnosis of adrenal disorders in small animals being less invasive than collecting a serum sample.

Delivered by BSAVA to:

Guest (guest)

IP: 52.87.193.239