RESULTS

Fifty-three percent of the dogs were of mixed-breed and 12% were Poodles. Twenty-three percent of the dogs were aged 8–16 weeks, 23% 4–11 months and 54% were >1 year old. Fifty-nine percent of the young dogs (up to 12 months of age) had never been vaccinated with core vaccines and 47% had received an incomplete vaccination schedule or vaccines not given by a veterinarian. Among adult dogs (>12 months), 29% had received puppy vaccination, but never received a booster and 57% had never been vaccinated. Ninety-eight percent of the dogs displayed neurological signs at the time of admission, including myoclonus (79%), seizures (34%), cerebellar and vestibular signs (41%) and

paraparesis or tetraparesis (11%). Absolute lymphopenia was observed in 86% of dogs. Twenty-five percent of the dogs were euthanized at the time of admission and 20% after treatment. Thirty-three percent were successfully treated and 22% did not return after the first consultation.

STATEMENT

The relatively high prevalence of CDV infection in this area of Brazil is likely a consequence of inadequate core vaccination of dogs related to the socioeconomic situation of the pet owners.

Symmetric dimethylarginine (SDMA) in geriatric cats and dogs: suitable for the early diagnosis of renal dysfunction?

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OBJECTIVES

Chronic kidney disease as well as the early detection in the creatinine blind zone is still a big issue in small animal practice. A new parameter, SDMA (symmetric dimethylarginine), originates from the protein degradation and is excreted exclusively via the kidneys. The aim of this study was to evaluate the symmetric dimethylarginine (SDMA) as a parameter for early detection of renal dysfunction in geriatric dogs and cats.

METHODS

Serum samples from each 87 geriatric dogs and cats were used. Creatinine and Cystein C concentrations were measured photometrically. SDMA analysis was done using a competitive ELISA assay.

RESULTS

In cats (8–22 years of age), 48.3% showed an increase in creatinine and SDMA, whereas 28.7% only had raised SDMA values. Dogs had both high creatinine and SDMA values in 46% of the cases, in contrast to 43.7% with sole SDMA increase. 33.8% of the dogs showed SDMA values above the reference interval with normal cystatin C. In 2 cats and 1 dog we noticed a rise in creatinine without SDMA increase.

STATEMENT

This study shows that SDMA is a sensitive parameter for early disease of kidney disease in geriatric animals. In cats and dogs, we were able to diagnose renal dysfunction which would not have been detected by creatinine measurement. Furthermore, SDMA seems to be more sensitive than cystatin C. In the three cases with solitary creatinine increase, a pronounced dehydration was present in all patients. Additionally, animals with large muscle mass may have elevated creatinine levels without apparent kidney damage.

Caudal and sacrocaudal intervertebral disc protrusion in two cats

**Gianluca Magi, Giunio Bruto Cherubini,
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DICK WHITE REFERRALS, Six Mile Bottom, Cambs, UK

OBJECTIVES

Reports of caudal and sacrocaudal intervertebral disc disease are rare in the veterinary literature, with only 6 dogs and no cats being reported. We describe the first two cases of sacral/caudal intervertebral disc protrusion in cats.

METHODS

Medical records of two cats presented at our hospital with S3–Cd1 and Cd1–2 intervertebral disc protrusion were reviewed for signalment, neurological signs, MRI findings, surgical treatment and post-operative follow-up.

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Poster presentations

RESULTS

Cat 1 presented for investigation of urinary retention and constipation. Hypotonic anal sphincter, reduced perianal and bulbocavernosus reflexes, over-distended bladder, discomfort at lumbosacral palpation were noted on examination. Cat 2 presented with a 1-month history of decreased appetite, reluctance to jump, reduced level of activity and constipation. Discomfort at lumbosacral palpation and reluctance to move were noted on examination. MRI revealed dorsal bulging of the desiccated intervertebral disc at S3-Cd1 in cat 1 and at Cd1-Cd2 in cat 2. Associated spinal nerve root compression was suspected in both cases. A dorsal decompressive laminectomy with fenestration in cat 1,

and dorsal laminectomy only in cat 2 were successfully performed. Both cats recovered uneventfully with resolution of neurological signs. Recurrence of signs was not observed during a post-operative period of over 24 months.

STATEMENT

These are the first two reported cases of sacral/caudal intervertebral disc disease in cats. Intervertebral disc protrusion of the caudal discs should be included in a differential diagnosis for cats presented with urinary retention, constipation, reluctance to move and caudal spinal pain.

Survival time in a dog with brain melanoma treated surgically, with adjuvant chemotherapy and radiation therapy

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OBJECTIVES

Report the outcome of a dog diagnosed with CNS melanoma managed with multimodality treatment.

METHODS

A five-year female entire Cocker Spaniel was admitted for obtundation and non-ambulatory tetraparesis.

MRI of the brain revealed a T2-weighted hyperintense mass lesion in the right olfactory and frontal lobe area and a contrast enhancing mass in the right frontal sinus.

Transfrontal craniotomy was performed for excision of the masses and topical cytarabine and methotrexate were applied.

The dog was discharged 5 days postoperatively, ambulatory with almost no neurological deficits. Histopathology revealed a malignant pleomorphic pigmented tumor compatible with melanoma.

RESULTS

Four courses of adjuvant chemotherapy (lomustine 20 mg/m² for 3 days every 4 weeks) were started 2 weeks postoperatively.

At 27 weeks after surgery the dog was readmitted for mild right exophthalmos. MRI revealed a fluid accumulation aligned along the dorsomedial aspect of the globe. Cytology was suggestive of malignant melanoma. Right retrobulbar mass excision and exenteration was performed.

At 35 weeks, a course of radiotherapy was started (one week apart each, 850cGy per fraction, to the total dose of 34Gy) and lomustine repeated and discontinued at 43 weeks.

71 weeks postoperatively a follow-up MRI was performed with no evidence of recurrence.

23 months postoperatively the dog was readmitted for acute worsening of neurological signs, diagnosed with recurrence of the melanoma evident on CSF and MRI and was eventually euthanised due to lack of response to treatment.

STATEMENT

Central Nervous System melanoma managed with multimodality treatment may have a long survival time, but further investigation is needed.

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