The use of a polypropylene mesh implant in a cone-shaped design as a novel canine perineal herniorrhaphy treatment: 3 cases (2013–2016)

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OBJECTIVES

To describe the use of a polypropylene mesh implant in a cone-shaped plug design, previously described in human medicine, as a novel canine perineal herniorrhaphy technique in cases of severe pelvic diaphragm muscle atrophy.

METHODS

Medical records from a small animal primary care centre were reviewed from 2013 to 2016. Three cases of canine

perineal herniorrhaphy treated with a polypropylene mesh in a cone-shaped plug design were included.

Case 1: A 10-year-old, neutered male, Shih Tzu presented with a history of dyschezia, tenesmus and constipation for 2 months.

Case 2: A 12-year-old, entire male, Yorkshire Terrier presented with a history of dyschezia and tenesmus for 16 months.

Case 3: An 11-year-old, entire male, German Shepherd presented with a history of dyschezia and tenesmus for 11 months.

A polypropylene flat mesh (15cmx15cm) rolled into a pointed cone-shaped plug was placed into the perineal defect in each case. A simple interrupted suture pattern with absorbable monofilament polydioxanone was used between the base of the cone and the muscles involved.

RESULTS

Neither recurrence nor surgical site infection have been reported to date. However, post-operative tenesmus was described in one patient (case 3) which resolved spontaneously. No other concerns were recorded.

STATEMENT

The authors believe the use of a polypropylene mesh implant in a three dimensional design provides extra mechanical strengthening and stabilization of the pelvic diaphragm. Thus, this advanced surgical alternative tension-free herniorrhaphy can be a suitable technique in cases of severe muscle atrophy and warrants further investigation.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Uterine remnant adenocarcinoma in a bitch with ovarian remnants: a case report

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OBJECTIVES

To describe the first reported case of uterine stump adenocarcinoma in a dog with ovarian remnants and its successful surgical treatment.

METHODS

A 3-year-old, female dog was presented with sanguineous vaginal discharge, 1.5 year after spaying. Physical examination and abdominal diagnostic imaging, both radiologic and ultrasonographic, revealed an irregular mass in the caudal abdomen. Blood tests were within normal limits. High serum progesterone concentration confirmed diestrus and presence of functional ovarian remnants, raising suspicion of uterine stump pyometra or enlargement. Given the results of the aforementioned examinations and the dog's clinical status, the dog was directly prepared for surgery. During laparotomy both remnant ovaries and a large, hard, encapsulated mass at the uterine body remnant were excised after meticulous tissue separation due to extended symphysis with the adjacent organs.

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Poster presentations

RESULTS

The uterine mass was histologically diagnosed as uterine adenocarcinoma. Ovaries were confirmed; normal. On re-examinations 1, 4 and 13 months after surgery the dog was bright and alert. The results of radiographic and ultrasonographic examination were unremarkable since neither recurrence nor metastatic disease was noted, 13 months postoperatively.

STATEMENT

Uterine carcinoma is an uncommon tumor of the bitch and to the author's knowledge, this is the first case of uterine remnant adenocarcinoma in an incompletely ovariohysterectomized bitch. According to history, clinical and diagnostic imaging signs, this case could not be distinguished from typical stump pyometra; nevertheless, the indicated surgical intervention was at least diagnostic, curative and preventive for further neoplastic growth and spreading.

A case of pyothorax due to *Salmonella* sinstorf following surgery for idiopathic chylothorax in a dog

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OBJECTIVE

To describe the first reported pyothorax caused by *Salmonella* spp. in a dog and its successful treatment.

METHODS

A one year five month old bullmastiff, with a past history of pulmonary stenosis, was referred for surgical management of suspected idiopathic chylothorax. Forty eight hours after thoracoscopic thoracic duct ligation,

pericardial window, cisterna chyli ablation and pleural port placement, the dog developed pyrexia and hypoalbuminemia and was diagnosed with pyothorax.

RESULTS

Therapy with intravenous co-amoxiclav was instigated and within 24 hours the pyrexia resolved, with an improvement of demeanour and appetite. The cytology report from the pleural fluid revealed a septic neutrophilic effusion and the culture yielded *Salmonella* spp. A faecal culture was performed but no agents were isolated. The thorax was drained through the pleural port and the dog was discharged nine days after the surgery with a two week prescription of antibiotics.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This case highlights the possibility of *Salmonella enterica* (ser. sinstorf) as a differential diagnosis in the management of pyothorax.

As it has been described in human literature, empyema involving *Salmonella* affecting immunocompromised patients is treated aggressively because of high morbidity and mortality. Despite pyothorax caused by *salmonella* spp. being a rare infection; it should be considered in any patient with pyothorax and treated accordingly.

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