Poster presentations

74% of dogs had stable disease or partial/complete remission >100 days with cyclophosphamide, including two dogs that had failed previous chemotherapy protocols and one that had received radiotherapy. Four dogs did not have resection of the primary tumour, and three of these remained clinically well for >100 days. 20 of 35 dogs (57%) had DFI >6 months with 13 (37%) still alive over one year later.

Of the dogs with intermediate/high grade sarcomas (n=18) the median survival time (MST) was 362 days, with one dog lost to follow up and four still alive.

Of the dogs with carcinomas (n=6) one was lost to

follow up and two are still alive >1 year later with no clinical signs. One dog had a reduced rate of progression and stable disease for >100 days with no clinical signs of disease. Two dogs with thyroid carcinoma were still alive three years later. This is in contrast to the reported MST for invasive thyroid carcinoma treated with cisplatin of 98 days.

This study adds to the evidence that metronomic cyclophosphamide may have some use in the treatment of malignant mesenchymal and epithelial tumours. However, it is important to note that even at low doses side effects may occur.

Pilot survey about awareness and approach towards feline injection site sarcomas by first opinion veterinarians in England

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INTRODUCTION

Prognosis for feline injection-site sarcoma (FISS) can be poor with advanced disease at diagnosis or conservative surgery. As FISS etiology is associated with veterinary practice and its management affects prognosis, improved awareness of first opinion veterinarians (FOV) about FISS predisposing and prognostic factors could enable to limit its occurrence and impact.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A postal survey was submitted to 200 FOV currently practicing in England to assess awareness of and approach towards vaccination, injection-site masses and FISS and data from returned questionnaires was analyzed.

RESULTS

Response rate was 40%. Most FOV vaccinated interscapularly and 93% annually against FeLV; 75% felt their practice's vaccination policy was appropriate. 93% did not always discuss the risks/benefits of vaccination, including FISS, with clients. Only 32% would report FISS to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's Adverse Reaction Surveillance Scheme. 52.7% of FOV would use excisional biopsy as their first or second step when investigating a persistent mass at an injection-site and 80% would carry out initial excision by themselves. 92% of vets would not carry out CT/MRI prior to excision. If FISS diagnosis would be known prior to diagnosis 63.2% would use surgical margins greater than 3 cm and most FOV would be keen to a specialist.

CONCLUSIONS

Improved awareness and understanding of FISS amongst FOV is still needed. Further survey assessment in a bigger FOV sample would aid in development of FISS awareness programs for FOV in England. This could lead to an improved diagnostic and treatment approach for cats with this disease with impact in subsequent outcome.

Retrospective review of dogs with malignant melanoma treated with the Oncept[®] melanoma vaccine

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INTRODUCTION

Malignant melanoma is a locally aggressive tumour in dogs with a high metastatic potential. There is conflicting evidence regarding the efficacy of the Oncept[®] melanoma vaccine in treatment of this disease in dogs. The aim of this study was

to assess whether the adjunctive treatment of dogs with the Oncept[®] melanoma vaccination affected the mean survival time (MST) of dogs following diagnosis compared to previously published studies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data was retrospectively collected from 21 dogs with malignant melanoma treated with the Oncept melanoma vaccine between February 2011 and October 2015. All dogs underwent complete staging. Nineteen dogs underwent surgery, with clear margins in seven dogs, incomplete margins in four dogs and unknown in six dogs. One dog received follow up radiotherapy and five adjunctive tyrosine kinase inhibitors (toceranib or mastinib). Two dogs were treated with vaccine alone.

RESULTS

Median age of the 21 dogs with malignant melanomas was