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

Madeleine Totham^{1,2}, Ana Lara Garcia²

¹ Passey Place Veterinary Surgery, London, UK

² Royal Veterinary College, London, UK

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

Catherine Wilson², Simon Tappin¹, Rob Foale¹

¹ Dick White Referrals, Six Mile Bottom, UK

² Bishop's Stortford Veterinary Hospital, Bishop's Stortford, UK

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

11 years (range 6–14 years). Breeds included Labrador (6), Golden Retriever (3), Cocker Spaniel (2) and one Irish Setter, Miniature Schnauzer, Brittany Spaniel, Border Terrier, Weimaraner, Border Collie and Staffordshire Bull Terrier, with 3 cross breeds. Eighteen tumors were oral (lip (8), gingiva (3), mandible (2), cheek (2), tongue (1) and not specified (2)), one ocular, one cutaneous and one perianal tumour. According to the WHO classification, seven dogs had stage 1 disease, ten were stage 2 and three were stage 3 (one unknown). Immediate adverse reactions were not reported.

At data collection eight dogs were alive, seven had died of melanoma-related causes, two of unrelated disease and three of unknown cause (one lost follow-up). Ten dogs received courses of four vaccines, one dog received three vaccines

only. Seven dogs received one follow-up vaccine after 6 months, two dogs two and one dog four six monthly vaccines.

The overall MST of all 19 dogs treated with surgery and follow-up vaccination was 485 days. One year survival was 86% for stage 1, 55% for stage 2 and 0% for stage 3. The MST was 692 days for stage 1, 493 days for stage 2 and 205 days for stage 3 disease.

CONCLUSION

These results suggest a moderate benefit to treating dogs with malignant melanoma with the Oncept® melanoma vaccine following surgery compared to previously reported MSTs for surgery or radiotherapy alone.

Identifying key proteoglycans between two dog breeds with a differing predisposition to cranial cruciate ligament rupture

S Allaith¹, S Tew¹, P.D Clegg¹, B Caterson², C.E Hughes², E.J Comerford^{1,3}

¹ University of Liverpool, Department of Musculoskeletal Biology, Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease, Liverpool, UK

² University of Cardiff, Department of Biosciences, Cardiff, UK

³ University of Liverpool, Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Leahurst Campus, Liverpool, UK

Cranial cruciate ligament disease (CCLD) and rupture is one of the most common orthopaedic conditions to affect dogs leading to stifle joint osteoarthritis. CCLD usually with ligament rupture occurs following a minor or non-contact injury. CCLD. Epidemiological studies have shown that certain dog breeds are at different risk to CCLD with the Labrador retriever and Rottweiler having a high risk, the Staffordshire bull terrier a moderate risk, and the greyhound a low risk to ligament rupture. Changes in cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) extracellular matrix molecules such as collagen fibril diameter and glycosaminoglycans content have been identified in dog breeds with a high risk of CCLD. Proteoglycans (PGs) are macromolecules consisting of a glycosaminoglycan chain and core protein. Small leucine rich proteoglycans (SLRPs) are an important family which regulate collagen

fibrillogenesis. Decorin, biglycan and fibromodulin are all members of the SLRP family. Aggrecan, on the other hand, is a member of the large aggregating PGs that functions to withstand compressive forces. Our aim was to measure the protein content and gene expression of PGs with western blot analysis, immunohistochemistry, and quantitative RT-PCR to identify differences in PGs and their metabolites between breeds that are at a moderate (Staffordshire bull terrier) and low (Greyhound) in risk to CCLD. We hypothesise that PGs are key components of the CCL extracellular matrix and therefore may play a role in CCLD. CCLs were obtained from both Staffordshire bull terrier (n=5) and Greyhounds (n=5) euthanised for purposes not related to this study and all dogs had grossly normal CCLs and stifle joints. Gene expression showed aggrecan (p=0.0003) and fibromodulin (p=0.03) to be significantly higher in Staffordshire bull terrier CCLs compared to those of Greyhound, whilst decorin (p=0.03) and ADAMTS4 (p=0.04) (PG metabolite) were significantly higher in greyhound CCLs compared to those of Staffordshire bull terriers, and protein expression by Western blotting has supported these findings. The role of aggrecan and fibromodulin in Staffordshire bull terrier might be due to increased compression in CCL eventually leading to pathology and rupture. Decorin may have a role in maintaining collagen fibril size and strength in greyhound, and ADAMTS4 indicates a higher metabolism of its CCLs resulting in protection against degeneration. Our findings indicate that PGs play different roles in the normal homeostasis of the canine CCL in dogs with a different susceptibility to CCLD.

Is it worth the risk? The attitudes of owners and veterinary professionals to the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in dogs with osteoarthritis

Zoe Belshaw¹, Lucy Asher², Rachel Dean¹

¹ Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine, Nottingham, UK

² Centre for Behaviour and Evolution IoN, Newcastle, UK

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are commonly used in the treatment of canine osteoarthritis. Whilst extensive research has been performed assessing their efficacy and safety, concerns remain about the risks associated with administering NSAIDs to older animals. The attitudes of veterinary surgeons and owners to using NSAIDs in an older population of dogs have not previously been reported. The aim of this study was to characterise the attitudes towards, and use of, NSAIDs in dogs with osteoarthritis by veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and owners in England and Scotland.

During 2014, data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with owners of dogs with osteoarthritis and focus groups with veterinary professionals (veterinary sur-

Delivered by BSA

Guest (guest)

IP: 3.85.7.115

On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 13:14:58