Intralesional injections of triamcinolone and lidocaine in three dogs: a potential non-invasive treatment for infiltrative lipomas?

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Infiltrative lipomas (IL) are benign neoplasms composed of well-differentiated adipose cells. They do not metastasise, however they aggressively infiltrate into adjacent tissues, which can result in pain and ambulatory encumbrance. Aggressive surgical resection is often recommended, but local recurrence is common. Radiotherapy has been described, however this requires multiple anaesthetics and can be expensive. In human medicine, minimally invasive treatment with intralesional administration of a combined glucocorticoid and local anaesthesia mixture has been described. Recently, the fatty acid profile has been determined in canine IL and the presence of glucocorticoid receptors were identified, suggesting a potential therapeutic target.

This small case series describes the outcome of intralesional injections using combined triamcinolone and lignocaine in three dogs with confirmed IL. All dogs received a 50:50

combination of 40mg/ml triamcinolone (Kenalog®) and 2% lidocaine hydrochloride. The injection was administered under ultrasound guidance into the centre of the lesion.

Case 1, a 5-year old male neutered Border Terrier presented with an IL of the left thigh, confirmed by ultrasonography and histopathology. Two attempts at surgical resection, followed by radiotherapy were unsuccessful. Following one injection the mass went into complete remission with no recurrence documented at 24 months. Short-term polydipsia and polyuria was reported following administration.

Case 2, an 8-year old female neutered English Springer Spaniel presented with a left forelimb IL causing lameness, confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging and histopathology. Surgical resection with forequarter amputation was declined by the owner. After one injection at 4 weeks the mass decreased in size by more than 50%, became softer on palpation and lameness resolved. Reoccurrence of the mass at 8 and 12 weeks required repeat treatment, each resulting in a 25% decrease. The mass has since remained stable in size and soft however thinning of the overlying skin was noted after the third injection.

Case 3, a 14-year old male neutered Border Terrier, had previously undergone two attempts at surgical resections for an IL to the inner right thigh. After the injection the mass decrease in size by more than 50% and was softer on palpation. There were no adverse side effects noted.

Although this reports only a small number of patients, intralesional injections with triamcinolone and lignocaine may be an effective non-invasive treatment to consider for IL.

Owners' perception of their dogs' quality of life during and after radiation therapy for cancer

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OBJECTIVES

Determine owners' perception of their dogs' quality of life during and after treatment with radiation therapy for a variety of canine neoplasms

METHODS

Sixty-four retrospective questionnaires were sent to owners of dogs that completed a course of radiation therapy in a radiation oncology referral centre. Questionnaires were sent at least 6 weeks after the treatment was finished. Owners were asked questions regarding their perception of radiation therapy and the quality of life of their pets during and after treatment with radiation therapy. Quality of life was scored from 1 (could not be worse) to 10 (could not be better).

RESULTS

43 clients (67%) responded to the questionnaire. 13 clients (30.2%) first heard about radiation therapy from their referring vets and 20 (46.5%) became aware of it at the referral consultation. 24 clients (55.8%) had no previous thoughts about the use of radiation in pets. After treatment 86% of owners were happy they had pursued radiotherapy, while only one client regretted this choice. Five owners (11.6%) were not sure about how they felt about choosing this course of treatment. 93 percent of the owners reported that they would undergo radiotherapy again for another pet and 39 owners (90.7%) would recommend it to a friend.

The median quality of life (QoL) score for dogs "before cancer was diagnosed" was 9 (range 5–10), "after cancer was diagnosed but before radiotherapy" was 8 (range 2–10), "during radiotherapy treatment" was 7 (range 2–10) and "6 weeks after radiotherapy treatment" was 9 (range 4–10). The median time between treatment and answering questionnaire was 177 days (range 41–505). Thirty four dogs (79.1%) were alive at the time of response of the questionnaire, 18.6% were deceased and one was lost follow up. Sixty-one percent of the owners reported side effects during or after the treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

Radiation therapy was well tolerated by owners and dogs. The great majority of clients were happy to have pursued radiation therapy, would choose to do it again in the same situation, and would recommend it to a friend.

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On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 05:32:36