which also required a loose screw be removed 5 weeks post operatively. 2 cases required implants to be removed due to migration, one of these also had a recurrence of lameness caused by a broken implant 8 months post operatively which was successfully managed conservatively. No cases were reported to later require pantarsal arthrodesis.

CONCLUSIONS

Articular fractures of the talus are occasionally seen in practice and may prove a diagnostic challenge due to their varied presentations and radiographic superimposition of structures. Pathology of the talus may be suspected in any case of lameness localised to the hock and oblique/skyline radiographic views or advanced imaging should be considered. Short term follow up of all cases demonstrated good healing of the fracture site and fibular osteotomy, where applicable.

Intra- and inter-observer reliability and repeatability of computed tomographic changes affecting the medial coronoid process in the canine elbow

Naomi Shimizu, Chris Warren-Smith, Sorrel Langley-Hobbs, Neil Burton, Elvin Kulendra, Kate Bradley, Eli Bowen, Andy Holdworth, Kevin Parsons,

Langford Veterinary Services, The University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

Medial coronoid process disease (MCPD) is the most prevalent lesion identified in canine elbow dysplasia. When assessing the medial coronoid process on CT images, several features can be used to categorize the presence or absence of disease. These include the presence or absence of osteophytes, presence and degree of subchondral sclerosis affecting the coronoid process and overt fragmentation, the fragment being displaced or non-displaced.

The aims of this study were to assess inter- and intra-observer reliability when interpreting the presence or absence of MCPD, the presence or absence of fragmentation and the presence or absence of osteophytes from a single transverse CT image at the level of the medial coronoid process. Further aims were to establish inter- and intra-observer reliability for (i)

grading the coronoid process sclerosis (grade I to III) and (ii) identifying of the anatomical region of the medial coronoid process. Furthermore, we report a method using a sclerometer to provide a quantitative measure of the amount of ulnar sclerosis from CT images.

Eight observers reviewed 84 elbow CT transverse images twice on two occasions separated by at least four weeks. Observers were asked to assess all the images for four features: presence or absence of MCPD, presence or absence of fragmentation, presence or absence of osteophytes and grade of sclerosis. They were also asked to draw a line where they considered the junction between the normal and the sclerotic trabecular bone to be and to draw another line where they considered the anatomical caudal border of the coronoid process (BoCo). Cohen's kappa and Intraclass Correlation Coefficient were calculated to quantify the agreement.

Inter-observer agreement was fair for identification of CT changes consistent with MCPD, moderate for fragmentation and osteophytes detection. It was poor for the sclerosis grading. The percentage sclerosis measured with the sclerometer had a moderate to almost perfect inter- and intra-observer agreement. The inter- and intra-observer agreement for the BoCo was poor.

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that features commonly assessed on transverse CT images including the presence or absence of MCPD and sclerosis grade have only poor to at best moderate inter-observer agreement. These findings suggest that subjective assessment of CT images is less reliable and repeatable between observers and more quantitative methods should be used such as the percentage sclerosis.

Canine musculoskeletal problems encountered in first opinion practice

Natalie Robinson¹, Marnie Brennan¹, Malcolm Cobb², Rachel Dean¹

¹ Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine, The University of Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK
² The University of Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK

Diseases of the musculoskeletal system are amongst the most common problems affecting dogs presented to first opinion veterinary practice. Many of these diseases are lifelong and

debilitating and so likely to be of high importance to both veterinary practitioners and owners. The aim of this study was to determine the common canine musculoskeletal problems encountered during first opinion consultations, including common clinical signs, diagnoses and treatments.

Data were collected during direct observation of consultations at eight veterinary practices. A data collection tool was used to record information on all problems discussed during the consultation. Information gathered on each problem included who initially raised the problem, clinical signs reported, diagnosis made, treatments prescribed and management advice given.

In total, 1235 dogs were presented with 2158 health problems discussed, of which 221 (10.2%) were musculoskeletal problems. The majority of cases involved a pre-existing

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