Oral presentations

Successful use of phenol cautery in the treatment of superficial corneal chronic epithelial defects in the dog

David Williams

Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

For many years canine superficial corneal chronic epithelial defects (SCCEDs) have been treated with epithelial debridement (ED), superficial grid and punctate keratotomy (SGK and SPK) or diamond burr debridement (DBD), with varying rates of resolution but none being universally successful. In 1966 Barnett reported the use of phenol for the treatment of these lesions (JSAP 7: 275–7). Since then, while some ophthalmologists have recommended this treatment, no prospective study has been published documenting its success. This study aims to fill this lacuna.

METHODS

Thirty dogs with SCCED where treatment with ED, SGK or DBD failed to yield a healed corneal epithelial surface, were treated by 'painting' the area of ulceration with phenol using a haemostat and cotton wool as described by Barnett, while the dog was sedated with medetomidine and butorphanol. The eye was flushed after cautery with copious amounts of sterile water. The proportion of corneas experiencing full epithelialization and the time to healing was recorded. Animals were discharged with topical antibiotic drops and per os non-steroidal medication and re-examined approximately weekly for one month.

RESULTS

All lesions healed after phenol cautery with a mean time to healing of 10.6 ± 4.1 days. A white haze was present after cautery but faded over subsequent weeks with full return of vision. No complications were noted after cautery.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Phenol cautery of SCCEDs may be an old technique but this study suggests that it should be used more widely, as unlike other procedures, it was universally successful in the animals treated here.

Scleritis and episcleritis in the dog: a survey of 100 cases

David Williams

Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Scleritis and episcleritis are infrequently encountered inflammatory conditions of the canine eye which should be recognised as potential differential diagnoses for a red eye. Here 100 cases are described in a retrospective study.

METHODS

100 cases of episcleritis and scleritis were retrieved from patient records over the past 20 years in a retrospective study.

RESULTS

Male and female dogs are equally represented in the sample. Scleral and episcleral disease occurs at

relatively early age, with the mean age being 4.3 years. 70% were 5 years of age or under. A marked breed predilection is noted with English Springer Spaniels (15 cases) and to a lesser extent Greyhounds/Lurchers (11 cases) and Airedales (7 cases) being over-represented relative to their prevalence in the patient population. 26% of lesions were classified as nodular episcleritis, 18% nodular episclerokeratitis, 22% diffuse episcleritis, 18% nodular scleritis and 12% diffuse scleritis. Corneal involvement was noted in 46% of cases. Initial responses to treatment showed adequate response in those lesions undergoing excisional biopsy with subsequent topical or subconjunctival steroid treatment. Dogs with scleral disease appeared to need more aggressive initial anti-inflammatory treatment than those with episcleral disease, but further research in this area is needed with a prospective, rather than retrospective, study.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This retrospective survey is the first large study of scleritis and episcleritis in the UK canine population. The cases reported here are a different population from that seen in the United States; collies are not commonly affected but instead English Springer Spaniels, Lurchers and Airedales are over-represented.