STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Dogs started on multimodal immunosuppressant therapy had an increased incidence and shorter time to relapse and a tendency towards greater cumulative prednisolone exposure compared to those receiving

prednisolone alone. This may suggest an advantage to prednisolone monotherapy or alternatively reflect an increased tendency for use of adjunctive immunosuppressants in severe or refractory cases. Further prospective randomized studies are therefore required to validate these findings.

Ligament laxity in non-erosive immune mediated polyarthritis (IMPA) in dogs (2009–2017)

Fiona Whitworth¹, Sophie Adamantos², Victoria Black¹

¹ University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

² Langford Vets, Bristol, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To identify the incidence of carpal and tarsal ligament laxity in cases of non-erosive IMPA in dogs and to describe the clinical features of these cases.

METHODS

A single centre retrospective study in a referral population. Cases of non-erosive IMPA with ligament laxity were

identified by review of hospital records. Primary care practices were contacted to attain follow up in cases in which ligament laxity was identified. Data were descriptively analysed.

RESULTS

77 cases of non-erosive IMPA were identified. Of these 61 were type I, 10 type II and 6 type III. Four dogs were identified with carpal or tarsal ligament laxity.

Three dogs were female (2 neutered), and one male entire. A mixture of breeds were identified, one each of shar pei, Fell terrier, border collie and papillon. A range of body weights was identified (2.95 kg–19.5 kg). Three of these dogs were classified as type I IMPA and one type III. Affected joints were carpi and tarsi (n=3), carpi (n=1). None of the dogs were receiving anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive doses of corticosteroids at the time of onset of ligament laxity. In 2 cases surgical intervention was required to address the ligament laxity (carpal and tarsal arthrodesis n=1, bilateral carpal arthrodesis n=1).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Ligament laxity has not been previously described in dogs with non-erosive IMPA. This suggests that damage to the soft tissue structures can occur in both erosive and non-erosive IMPA.

The use of a standard operating procedure in the analysis of canine packed cell volume

Craig R Breheny, Jorge Perez-Accino Salgado, Nicholas X Bommer, Ian Handel, Adam G Gow

Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate whether the use of a standard operating procedure (SOP) reduces inter- and intraoperator variation,

and improves accuracy, in the measurement of the canine packed cell volume (PCV).

METHODS

An illustrated SOP was created, in a step-by-step approach. Aliquots of blood was prepared from surplus blood. The PCV of several aliquots were measured by the authors following World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

Clinical staff and undergraduate veterinary students were randomly assigned to two groups; those with, and those without access to the SOP.

The participants were then instructed to perform a PCV measurement as they would on clinics, with or without the SOP.

The participants were required to record their measured PCV, which was then compared to that measured by one of the authors (CB or JPAS).

If the participant and author's were in agreement, but did not patch the reference values, this was deemed a mixing error. If the participant and author's values did not