Oral presentations

Owner perceptions of radiotherapy treatment for animals with cancer

**Patrick Smith, Jenny Helm,
Shona Burnside, Joanna Morris**

Glasgow University, Glasgow, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To assess whether owners' attitudes towards their pets' radiotherapy, including concerns over side effects, change during the course of treatment, and whether radiotherapy was perceived to affect their pets' quality of life.

METHODS

Clients were recruited between 2012–2015 when their pet received palliative or definitive radiotherapy for various tumours. Clients completed standardised questionnaires before, during and after their pets' radiotherapy protocol. Questions assessed owner attitudes, including concerns regarding side effects, actual side effects experienced,

and overall satisfaction with the process. In addition, at each time point the owners assessed their pets' quality of life using a simple numerical scale (0–10). The responses were assessed for significant changes over time using Kruskal-Wallis or Mann-Whitney tests.

RESULTS

49 pets receiving radiotherapy were included in the study. After completing treatment, owners were significantly less concerned about potential side effects of radiotherapy ($P=0.0001$), side effects associated with repeat anaesthetics ($P=0.0002$), and about radiotherapy in general ($P=0.0004$). The pets' quality of life did not show a significant change at any point during or after treatment. Following treatment, 94% reported the experience was better than expected and 100% reported supporting radiotherapy in pets.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This is the first prospective study evaluating client attitudes and satisfaction before and after radiotherapy treatment in pets. The results indicate that radiotherapy is well tolerated, and the anxiety associated with radiotherapy is significantly alleviated after experiencing the process. These results will help veterinarians allay client concerns, and will hopefully lead to an increase in clients pursuing radiotherapy in pets.

Toxicity of constant rate infusion of cytarabine in dogs with stage V lymphoma

**Alexandra Guillen, Riccardo Finotello,
Aaron Harper, Laura Blackwood**

Small Animal Teaching Hospital, University of Liverpool,
Neston CH64 7TE, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Cytarabine, a cell cycle phase specific antimetabolite, is reported to improve outcomes in dogs with bone marrow (BM) or central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma involvement. Optimal efficacy is achieved by constant rate infusion (CRI). The objectives of the present study are to evaluate the incidence and severity of toxicity of cytarabine given as CRI dogs with stage V lymphoma.

METHODS

Medical records of canine lymphoma patients with suspected BM or CNS involvement treated with a modified L-CEOP protocol including cytarabine CRI were reviewed. Adverse events were graded according to the VCOG-common terminology criteria.

RESULTS

Twenty-five dogs were included. Gastrointestinal toxicity occurred in thirteen (52%) dogs; this included grade I (5 cases) and II (2 cases) diarrhoea, vomiting (2 cases), colitis (1 case) or anorexia (3 cases). Two dogs required hospitalisation due to grade III and IV diarrhoea and melena. Three dogs had neutropenia (1, grade I and 2, grade 2) and one dog had grade I thrombocytopenia. Two dogs developed mild increases in ALT. One dog died due to tumour lysis syndrome. Eleven dogs required symptomatic treatment and delays in chemotherapy occurred in 5. Progression free interval for responders was 104 days (range 7–551 days) and median survival time 84 days.

Gastrointestinal toxicity was common in our cases; this is in contrast with the low incidence of GI toxicity reported previously.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Our findings suggest that gastrointestinal toxicity should be expected in lymphoma patients undergoing cytarabine CRI.