STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

HSPF might cause severe upper respiratory obstruction by occluding the dorsal portion of the laryngeal aditus and covering the corniculate processes of the arytenoid cartilages. HSPF might limit or block laryngeal abduction during inspiration. HSPF might represent an underestimated disease of the upper airways and clinician should

be aware of this condition when evaluating brachycephalic and non-brachycephalic toy dogs with signs of upper respiratory obstruction. A larger case series of dogs with HSPF is warranted to better characterize this condition and the indications for surgical versus conservative management.

Incidence and treatment of early transitory postoperative hypoxemia in dogs without cardio-pulmonary pathologies: a pilot study

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OBJECTIVES

To establish the incidence of early transitory postoperative hypoxemia (TPH) in dogs recovering from general anaesthesia, without cardiorespiratory pathology and to assess the duration of oxygen therapy.

METHODS

One hundred and eight client-owned dogs, undergoing general anesthesia for different surgical procedures, were enrolled in this prospective clinical study. To assess the oxygenation status, after extubation, the peripheral capillary oxygen saturation (SpO₂) value at room air was recorded every 7 minutes for 12 consecutive times after minimum 2 minutes of reading with a good plethysmographic signal. All the patients were monitored for a total of 84 minutes. The moderate hypoxemic patients (SpO₂<95%) received face mask (FM) oxygen therapy at a flow rate of 8–10 L/min while the severe hypoxemic patients (SpO₂<90%) received 5 cmH₂O of non-invasive continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) with a helmet at a FiO₂ of 0.35–0.45. All the data were processed using a descriptive statistical analysis.

RESULTS

The incidence of TPH was 50%, 10% of patients were severe hypoxemic and 40% were moderate hypoxemic. Regarding the moderate hypoxemia, it had a greater incidence in the first 20 minutes while severe hypoxemia occurred most frequently at extubation time and decreased progressively at 5 and 10 minutes after extubation. The average length of time for oxygen treatment was 16.25 min for FM and 11.6 min for CPAP therapy.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

TPH has an incidence of 50% in dogs with healthy lungs. FM oxygen therapy and CPAP with the paediatric helmet are adequate treatments for moderate and severe hypoxemia.

A case study of consent discussions for elective neutering in a small animal practice

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OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this case study were

1. to elicit the topics covered in the consent discussion prior to elective neutering
2. to evaluate the role of the consent discussion in relation to the consent form
3. to make recommendations for improvement to the pre-operative consent process

METHODS

A single centre case study was conducted in a large small animal hospital. Ten consent discussions involving eight different veterinary surgeons were audiotaped, transcribed and then thematically analysed.