Oral presentations

It significantly impacts on owner's perception of QOL. This could lead to reduced treatment compliance or

euthanasia of patients. Assessment and potential treatment of visceral pain in canine CE demands further study.

Combined endoscopic and fluoroscopic assisted balloon dilation as a treatment method for benign oesophageal strictures in dogs

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OBJECTIVES

To assess the effectiveness of combined endoscopic and fluoroscopic assisted balloon dilation in dogs with benign oesophageal strictures.

METHODS

A retrospective study was performed in dogs that underwent combined endoscopic and fluoroscopic assisted

balloon dilation for benign oesophageal strictures. Cases were assigned a Modified Dysphagia Score (MDS) at presentation based on previously published literature (MDS = 0 if no dysphagia present with normal diet; MDS = 1 if able to swallow some solid food; MDS = 2 if able to swallow semi-solid food; MDS = 3 if able to swallow liquids only; MDS = 4 if unable to swallow liquids).

Information recorded included the location and number of strictures, duration of clinical signs, fluoroscopic confirmation of full stricture dilation, number of balloon dilations performed and final MDS score. Cases were excluded if assigning a MDS (either pre or post procedure) was not possible due to lack of information in the medical record.

RESULTS

Five dogs were included in the study. One patient had undergone 4 endoscopic balloon dilations prior to referral. Combined endoscopic and fluoroscopic dilatation was well tolerated in all cases with no complications reported. Patients underwent an average of 2 dilation procedures and all patients were discharged within 24 hours of treatment. The MDS improved in 4/5 cases and remained static in the remaining case. The mean pre treatment MDS was 2 and mean post-treatment MDS was 0.4.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Combined endoscopic and fluoroscopic assisted balloon dilation appears an effective method of treating benign oesophageal strictures in dogs.

Indications for administration of gastroprotectant medications in hospitalised dogs and cats

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OBJECTIVES

To establish how frequently gastroprotectant medications are administered in a specialist veterinary hospital and the stated indications for their use.

METHODS

A prospective, nurse-led survey was performed over a period of 9 weeks, including all dogs and cats referred to a specialist internal medicine clinic that were hospitalised for more than 24 hours. The use and dosages of gastroprotectant drugs were recorded; attending clinicians completed a questionnaire to establish indications for their use.

RESULTS

Of 189 dogs and 58 cats hospitalised for more than 24 hours, 74 (39%) dogs and 24 (41%) cats received gastroprotectant drugs. Omeprazole was the drug administered most frequently in 50 dogs and 8 cats, all at a dose

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