Oral presentations

The use of contrast-enhanced computed tomography for the diagnosis of hiatal hernia in brachycephalic dogs suffering from the Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

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OBJECTIVES

To assess the prevalence of hiatal hernia (HH) in BOAS dogs and review the utility of the contrast-enhanced CT in the process of diagnosing HH in those patients.

METHODS

A retrospective study was performed on the CT images obtained from 88 patients, 42 of them were contrast enhanced. All images were reviewed by 3 imagers and the presence of HH was assessed. The prevalence of HH was calculated within both the plain and the contrast-enhanced groups.

21 randomly chosen contrast-enhanced studies were initially viewed without the contrast in order to diagnose HH. Subsequently, they were re-assessed with contrast enhancement.

RESULTS

In the plain group HH was diagnosed in 28% of the cases, whereas among the contrast-enhanced studies HH was found in 50% of them. The assessment of the 21 studies showed that in 50% of the cases the presence of contrast changed the final diagnosis. Additionally, all the imagers equivocally stated that introduction of the contrast significantly increased the level of the decision confidence in borderline cases.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The study revealed a high prevalence of HH in BOAS-affected dogs. It also showed an increase in the detectability of HH, when the contrast CT is performed. Contrast-enhanced images allow more precise recognition of the tomographic features of HH and differentiation from other soft-tissue malformations such as esophageal diverticulum. To the author's knowledge, this the first study in the veterinary literature that describes the tomographic features of HH.

Computed tomographic and surgical findings of retained surgical sponges in two dogs

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of this case report is to assess the relationship between the computed tomographic and the exploratory laparotomy findings in two dogs with retained surgical sponges.

METHODS

Two dogs were referred with a history of depression and chronic vomiting following previous ovariohysterectomy. Clinical examination revealed a palpable abdominal mass in both dogs. In the first dog computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen revealed a 36 x 44 mm well demarcated intramural small intestinal mass with air attenuating center surrounding by a soft tissue attenuating ring. In the second dog CT demonstrated a 32 x 31 mm well demarcated soft tissue attenuating peritoneal mass with no intestinal loops displacement. Enhanced CT examination demonstrated peripheral ring enhancement of the mass in both cases finding compatible with the presence of abscess or granuloma.

RESULTS

Surgical exploration was performed in both dogs. In the first dog, a retained surgical sponge was detected within the intestinal lumen and intestinal resection and anastomosis were followed. One day after surgery the dog had showed signs of intestinal dehiscence and

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peritonitis but the owner declined further surgery and decided to have the dog euthanized. In the second dog an encapsulated surgical sponge was found adhered to the jejunum. Following release of the adhesions the mass was removed and the dog was discharged 2 days after surgery.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

CT is a valuable method for the diagnosis of retained surgical sponges. The retained sponges usually have a characteristic CT appearance resembling granulomas and this may be helpful in preoperative diagnosis and prognosis of them.

Duplex and compressibility ultrasound examination in canine thoracic limb

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OBJECTIVES

To describe Duplex ultrasound (US) and compressibility technique for superficial vascular examination in dogs. To characterize ultrasonographic features of normal canine cephalic vein and compare them with veins of dogs with clinically diagnosed phlebitis and thrombophlebitis.

METHODS

Prospective, descriptive study was performed in dogs presented for radiotherapy at the Hospital for Small Animals. Thirty dogs with no evidence of vascular disease

and 17 dogs with positive Visual Infusion Phlebitis (VIP) score were recruited for the study. All US examinations were performed and interpreted by one observer who was blinded to the clinical score. Cephalic veins were assessed for multiple criteria and Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was calculated between the findings and time the intravenous catheter (IVC) was in place.

RESULTS

Successful and complete US examination was conducted in less than 5 minutes in all dogs. Scanning procedure was well tolerated in all patients. No abnormal US findings were detected in normal dogs group. All dogs with clinical phlebitis showed ultrasonographic changes (15/17 dogs increased wall thickness; 8/17 increased wall echogenicity; 7/17 disturbed Doppler flow; 10/17 incomplete compressibility; 10/17 presence of intraluminal thrombus). No strong correlation was found between the time the IVC was in place and US changes.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Duplex and compressibility ultrasonographic studies are feasible and safe techniques for evaluation of cephalic veins in dogs. Dogs with phlebitis show ultrasonographic changes therefore ultrasound is a diagnostic tool in cases of clinically suspected phlebitis and thrombophlebitis.

Retrospective evaluation of dietary management in glycaemic stabilisation and cataract formation in 152 dogs with diabetes mellitus

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OBJECTIVES

Cataract formation secondary to hyperglycaemia is common in dogs with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM). Dietary management should facilitate stabilisation of hyperglycaemia with insulin and thereby delay or prevent cataract formation. Objectives: Evaluation of effect of dietary management on glycaemic stabilisation and cataract formation in dogs with IDDM.

METHODS

Data for 152 diabetic dogs attending a UK Veterinary Hospital were obtained from clinical records and a questionnaire survey circulated. 100/152 (65.8%) developed cataracts after diagnosis of IDDM.

RESULTS

From point of diagnosis there was no significant difference in the time to stabilisation of glycaemia, in the

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