Oral presentations

Vestibular disease in dogs under UK primary veterinary care: epidemiology and clinical management

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OBJECTIVES

Vestibular disease, central and/or peripheral, can be a dramatic primary-care presentation. Current literature describes mostly referral caseloads. This study aimed to investigate the prevalence, presentation, management, and outcomes of vestibular disease in dogs in primary-care UK practices.

METHODS

The study explored the VetCompass™ primary-care database. Potential vestibular disease cases during 2016

were identified before manual verification and further information was extracted.

RESULTS

From 905,544 study dogs, 759 vestibular cases were confirmed giving an overall prevalence of 0.08% (95% CI 0.07–0.09%). Springer Spaniels had 3.74 (95% CI 2.97–5.06, $P < 0.001$), Golden Retrievers 3.30 (95% CI 2.19–4.97, $P < 0.001$), Border Collies 2.78 (95% CI 2.03–3.80, $P < 0.001$) and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels 2.70 (95% CI 1.90–3.84, $P < 0.001$) times the odds for vestibular disease compared with crossbreeds.

Mean age at first diagnosis was 12 (SD: 3) years. The most common presenting signs were head tilt (69.8%), nystagmus (68.1%) and ataxia (64.5%). Central involvement was recorded in 14.1% cases.

The most frequently used treatments were antiemetics (43.2%), corticosteroids (33.1%), antimicrobials (25%) and propentofylline (23.25%). Only 27/759 (3.6%) cases were referred. Improvement was recorded in 317/759 (41.8%) of the cases after a mean of 10 days from diagnosis. Of 232/759 (30.6%) deaths during the study period, vestibular disease contributed to death in 144/232 (62%).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study confirms low referral rates for vestibular disease cases, suggesting that primary-care data sources offer more generalisable information for benchmarking to help clinicians review their own clinical activities. Veterinarians should be aware of the strong breed predispositions identified here.

Incidence and clinical significance of Cystic Pharyngeal Hypophysis (Rathke's Pouch) in the dog

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OBJECTIVES

The pharyngeal hypophysis is the embryonic precursor to the anterior pituitary gland. Cystic expansion of this structure in the nasopharynx (previously termed Rathke's Pouch) has been reported on MRI images in a small case series of dogs and was associated with suspected

clinical significance. The aim of this study was to investigate the incidence and clinical significance in a large cohort of dogs.

METHODS

A retrospective review of a database of canine head MRI was performed with subsequent post-mortem examination of a cohort of preserved canine cadaver specimens.

RESULTS

Imaging changes consistent with a cystic pharyngeal hypophysis were identified on MRI images of 56 of 474 dogs (11.8%). Cysts were hyperintense to the surrounding mucosa on both T1 and T2 weighted images and could be identified in both sagittal and transverse planes. All cysts occurred in the roof of the nasopharynx on the midline. There was no evidence to suggest that the presence of these cysts was consistently associated with any clinical significance.

Gross examination of 25 preserved canine cadaver specimens demonstrated a grossly visible cystic mass lesion on the midline in the roof of the nasopharynx in

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