Oral presentations

Diagnosis of large granular lymphocyte (LGL) lymphoma via aqueocentesis in domestic cats

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OBJECTIVES

To describe the clinical features and outcome of cats with LGL lymphoma and the utility of aqueocentesis in their diagnosis.

METHODS

Retrospective description of cats diagnosed with ocular LGL lymphoma using aqueocentesis at a university referral hospital.

RESULTS

Three cases were identified; a Bengal (MN) and two domestic short-hair cats (MN, FN), aged between 8 and

14 years. All cats presented through the ophthalmology department and were visual, with unilateral or bilateral uveitis and secondary glaucoma. Two cats were FIV positive, whilst toxoplasma and feline coronavirus titres were not supportive of active infection.

Initial diagnosis of LGL lymphoma was made, in all cases, with cytological examination of aqueous humour. No complications were encountered with the procedure and a rapid diagnosis was obtained. Additional ultrasonographic and cytological features associated with renal infiltration were present in one case, whilst the others had non-specific imaging and aspirate findings.

One cat was immediately euthanised, with ocular and bilateral renal LGL lymphoma confirmed on post-mortem examination. Two cats underwent systemic chemotherapy and tissue plasminogen activator injection alongside ocular medication, however, due to progressive disease (hepatic and CNS involvement) were euthanised 4-5 weeks later. Post-mortem examination of the neurologically affected cat confirmed involvement of multiple abdominal organs, skin, eyes and CNS.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Diagnosis of LGL lymphoma via aqueocentesis has not been previously described in the domestic cat. Cytological examination of aqueous humour can provide a prompt diagnosis, facilitating early treatment. Assessing for renal infiltration and FIV status in such cases is prudent given the prevalence in this study population.

Does homeopathy extend survival time in dogs with osteosarcoma: preliminary findings

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OBJECTIVES

Canine osteosarcoma is often extremely painful, has high metastatic ability and poor prognosis. Homeopaths have anecdotally reported treatment outcomes exceeding the expected survival time in affected dogs. This study asks whether homeopathy in addition to non-steroidal pain

relief extends survival time compared with that in dogs treated with non-steroidals alone.

METHODS

This cohort study compares survival time in dogs with limb osteosarcoma treated with homeopathy and non-steroidal analgesia with those treated with non-steroidal drugs alone. Dogs were those where owners had declined surgical, radiotherapeutic or chemotherapeutic treatment options. Diagnosis was confirmed radiologically. Dogs were monitored by quality of life assessments and using videos of animals exercising provided by owners. Euthanasia was performed when pain was not treatable with non-steroidal analgesia with end of life decisions made by the owner and referring veterinarians. Survival times in the two cohorts were compared using a Student's T test.

RESULTS

To date 13 dogs have been entered to the homeopathy arm of the study and 20 in the NSAID arm. All dogs on the study have been euthanased. Survival times are 155 ± 74 days in the homeopathy cohort and 136 ± 112 days in the NSAID cohort, this difference not statistically significant at $p = 0.86$.

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STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

While to date the study does not show a benefit of using homeopathy in addition to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory

drugs we look forward to completing the study by increasing the number of dogs in each cohort to 30. The study was funded through a grant from the Association of British Homeopathic Veterinary Surgeons.