Oral presentations

screw loosening was the most frequent (nine cases) and was the only complication seen in dogs with fissure fracture (three cases). Presence of medial epicondylar fissure fracture and development of screw loosening were significantly associated (Fisher's test ($p = 0.0468$), Odds Ratio 6.3 ($p = 0.0296$)).

Computed Tomographic (CT) Measurement of Femoral Trochlear Groove Depth in Brachycephalic Dogs

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OBJECTIVES

To determine whether there is a difference in the trochlear groove depth of brachycephalic and non-brachycephalic dogs, and to compare between different brachycephalic breeds with varying risk for medial patellar luxation.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Medial epicondylar fissure fracture is a previously unreported complication following placement of transcondylar screws. Their occurrence was significantly associated with subsequent screw loosening.

METHODS

Retrospective blinded study using a previously validated ratio (T/P) of maximal trochlear groove depth (T) and maximal patella craniocaudal thickness (P) measured on CT, to assess trochlear groove depth in Pugs, French Bulldogs and English Bulldogs without clinical patellar luxation. Combined brachycephalic T/P was compared to published data on mongrel non-brachycephalic dogs. The effect of breed on T/P was assessed using one-way linear regression models.

RESULTS

The mean T/P is affected by breed ($p < 0.001$). There is a significant difference between the T/P of Pugs (0.45) and French Bulldogs (0.38) ($p < 0.001$) and between Pugs and English Bulldogs (0.4) ($p < 0.001$). Mean T/P is significantly reduced in the brachycephalic dog breeds ($p < 0.001$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The trochlea groove varies by breed, and was more shallow in the brachycephalic dogs at increased risk of patellar luxation. A shallow groove may be a breed driven characteristic predisposing to patellar luxation. Trochlear recession to achieve a patellar coverage of 50% (T/P 0.5) has been previously recommended for patellar luxation correction but may be excessive considering breed normal depth.

Apprentices becoming masters: learning curves and subsequent long-term outcomes for two surgeons performing lateral fabellar suture for cranial cruciate ligament rupture

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OBJECTIVES

- Define the number of supervised operations required for two surgeons to become independently competent in lateral fabellar suture (LFS) placement for cranial cruciate ligament rupture (CCLR)
- Detail long-term outcomes for both surgeons following achievement of independent competence, and compare to their surgeon-teacher's outcomes.

METHODS

Retrospective study detailing cases of CCLR treated surgically by LFS by two surgeons (S1, 1 year graduated; S2, 8 years graduated) under the supervision of a

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surgeon-teacher (ST, 10 years graduated). The number of supervised operations required until independence was determined. The long-term outcomes of procedures for all three surgeons following S1 and S2 independence were determined as excellent, good, acceptable, or poor, and compared via one-way ANOVA. Minor and major complications were detailed.

RESULTS

S1 gained independent competence after 5 operations and S2 after 4. S1 had excellent outcomes in 20/21 (95%) of subsequent operations, S2 in 12/16 (75%) and ST in 19/23 (83%). There was no significant difference in

long-term outcomes between surgeons ($p = 0.31$). Complication rates were comparable across surgeons (S1 minor 33%, major 0%; S2 minor 40%, major 6%; ST minor 34%, major 9%).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The number of supervised operations required to reach independent competence in LFS is small at around 4 or 5 and the operation can be mastered by relatively newly graduated surgeons. Outcomes following independence were generally excellent, and for one surgeon manifested as a greater percentage of excellent outcomes than the surgeon-teacher.

Locking plate fixation for canine acetabular fractures

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OBJECTIVES

To document application of locking plates for stabilisation of acetabular fractures along with complications and clinical outcomes. We hypothesised that complications and clinical outcomes would be comparable to historical reports using non-locking plate and screw constructs.

METHODS

Medical records of dogs presented with acetabular fractures at a single referral centre between 2010 and 2018 were reviewed. Cases surgically managed by open reduction and internal fixation, involving placement of at

least one locking plate and screws were included. Signalment, fracture classification, type of implant used, additional methods of stabilisation, along with complications and neurological deficits, were collected. Long-term follow up was based on LOAD questionnaire.

RESULTS

18 acetabula were repaired in 17 dogs. Locking implants were: VetLOX (4/18), SOP (7/18), and LCP (7/18). Locking plates and screws were used as the sole method of fixation in 10/18 acetabula, and as adjunctive fixation with other implants in 8/18 acetabula. Two minor complications and one catastrophic complication were reported. 16/17 dogs returned to function with radiographic documentation of fracture healing. Complication rate was comparable to historic reports using non-locking implants. Long-term outcomes assessed by LOAD questionnaire were positive in most cases.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Locking plates are a viable means of stabilising acetabular fractures in dogs and can provide positive clinical outcomes. Surprisingly, problems including inaccurate fracture reduction and implant loosening were not fully avoided by use of locking implants but incidence was low.

Pancarpal arthrodesis and antebrachial deformity correction using 3D printed osteotomy and reduction guides and a customized titanium plate in a toy breed dog

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OBJECTIVES

To report the case of a toy breed dog affected by antebrachial deformity and subluxation of the carpus due to a severe osteoarthritis.

METHODS

A 9 year-old, 5kg, female Pekingese presented with subluxation of left carpus. Helical CT scan (16 slice) revealed advanced osteoarthritis in both carpi and elbows, and bilateral antebrachial deformity. Arthrocentesis of the left carpus was performed, yielding a mononuclear arthropathy.