Poster presentations

A pilot study examining type of thyroidectomy and incidence of post-operative hypocalcaemia of 42 cats treated in UK charity practices

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OBJECTIVES

To quantify how many cats in the case series developed post-operative hypocalcaemia following thyroidectomy.

To quantify which thyroidectomy protocol veterinary surgeons elected for in participating first opinion charity veterinary practices (unilateral, staged bilateral, simultaneous bilateral).

METHODS

This study is a retrospective case series.

The charity provided access to the clinical records of 240 cats who underwent procedures priced as a

thyroidectomy. Every fifth cat was selected through systematic sampling to include a total of 42 cats for this pilot study.

The clinical records were anonymised and examined for any indication of post-operative hypocalcaemia by examining blood test results.

RESULTS

Thirty-one cats underwent a unilateral thyroidectomy (73.8%), eight underwent a staged bilateral thyroidectomy (19%) and three underwent a simultaneous bilateral thyroidectomy (7.1%).

Two cats (4.8%) developed post-operative hypocalcaemia as indicated by an internal laboratory blood test for ionised calcium, but neither of these cats showed clinical signs. One cat developed hypocalcaemia after a unilateral surgery and underwent a second thyroidectomy 58 days later with no complications. The other developed hypocalcaemia after its second thyroidectomy.

None of the cats underwent treatment for hypocalcaemia and were discharged on the day of their blood tests.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Considering how common feline hyperthyroidism is and the difficulties many owners face in giving oral medications, more research needs to be done in permanent treatment options for feline hyperthyroidism to allow veterinary surgeons and owners to make better informed decisions.

There is an opportunity to perform a wider scale study using the rest of the data provided by the veterinary charity.

Urethral blockage in a feline patient caused by a grass seed mid-urethra, found during a perineal urethrostomy

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OBJECTIVES

To describe a new reported cause for urethral blockage in a feline patient, necessitating in a perineal urethrostomy.

METHODS

A 6-year-old, male neutered, DSH cat was presented following repeated cases of urethral blockage, with a

previous diagnosis of idiopathic feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD). However, the most recent presentation was more severe and with poor response to medical management after indwelling urinary catheter (IDUC) removal. After discussion with the owner, a perineal urethrostomy was decided the most prudent long-term solution.

During the surgical procedure, at the stage the urethra was incised, and the urinary catheter removed, a grass seed was identified and removed from the distal aspect of the urethra (just distal to the bulbourethral glands). The perineal urethrostomy continued without complication and the patient made a good recovery. No short-term or long-term complications were reported.

RESULTS

FLUTD is commonly diagnosed in practice, with most cases being Idiopathic; others due to uroliths, urethral plugs, and other causes such as trauma or stricture. Now foreign material, such as a grass seed, is also reported and should be considered during a case work up.

Further research would be required to see how effective use of imaging e.g. ultrasound or CT, would be to diagnose further cases.

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