Rabbit intra and periocular tumours: a retrospective histopathological study of 15 cases

Robert Goss BVetMed MRCVS
Maes Glas Vets, Church Acre, Bridgend CF31 2JT.
robjagoss@gmail.com

OBJECTIVE

The report aims to describe the rabbit intra and periocular tumours submitted to a commercial pathology laboratory by veterinary surgeons attending to the pet rabbit population.

METHODS

A retrospective search through the archive of 322749 biopsies submitted from veterinary practices to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory (Synlab's VPG Histology; previously Bridge Pathology, UK) between June 2008 and April 2020 was performed. The age, sex, neuter status, breed, submitting case history, histological diagnosis, gross and microscopic description of submissions meeting the search criteria were analysed using descriptive statistics and a Fishers Exact Test.

RESULTS

Fifteen submissions met the search criteria. Ten submissions were of an eyelid mass, three were enucleated eyes and one mass was from the third eyelid. A final submission included three squamous papillomas from both the third eyelid and the eyelid.

Rabbit eyelid neoplasia submissions from Synlab's VPH Histology; previously Bridge Pathology, UK between June 2008 and April 2020

Five out of six male rabbit eyelid masses were at increased metastatic risk (Melanoma (2) Poorly differentiated tumour (1), Squamous Cell Carcinoma (1), Round cell tumour (1)). All four female rabbit eyelid submissions were benign squamous papillomas. The effect of gender on whether the eyelid mass was benign or malignant was significant ($P = 0.048$).

All three enucleated submissions were malignant (Soft tissue sarcoma, Lymphoma and Round cell tumour).

STATEMENT

The small dataset and lack of clinical follow up in this study precludes any conclusion other than demonstrating the importance of investigation of rabbit ocular and eyelid masses by the attending veterinary surgeon given the risk of malignancy.

Delivered by BSAVA to:

Guest (guest)

IP: 34.227.88.159

On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 13:45:28