

Lung Lobe Torsion in a Miniature Pinscher

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Abstract: Lung lobe torsion is rare disease in dogs and it has been reported in large breed dogs mostly, particularly in Afghan Hounds. Recently, it has been reported in small breed dogs such as Pug, Lhasa Apso, Pekinese, ShihTzu, and Yorkshire terrier (Choi *et al.*, 2006¹⁾), but not in miniature pinscher. Lung lobe torsion can be diagnosed by clinical signs, thoracic radiography and exploratory thoracotomy. Furthermore, useful information for the state of dog can be obtained using non-cardiac ultrasound and pleural effusion analysis.

A four-year-old intact female miniature pinscher was presented for evaluation of an acute onset of coughing and tachypnea during one week. On physical examination, body temperature was 39.6°C, heart and respiratory rates were 150 bpm and 84 bpm, respectively, but she was bright and alert. On auscultation, heart and respiratory sounds were decreased in left thoracic wall. Radiographic examination of thorax showed large amount of pleural effusion in left pleural cavity. Thoracocentesis was performed and 110 ml of serosanguineous fluid was removed. The effusion was confirmed as non-septic exudate. Exploratory thoracotomy revealed torsion of left cranial lung lobe. The affected lobe was removed and the dog was recovered uneventfully. Spontaneous lung lobe torsion was reported mainly in large breed, deep-chest dogs and a few small breeds. To the author's knowledge, this is the first report of lung lobe torsion in miniature pinscher. During the period from May 2005, three cases of lung lobe torsion were presented to us; the breeds were Afghan hound, Yorkshire terrier, and miniature pinscher. This report shows that spontaneous lung lobe torsion cases are available not only in large breed dogs but also in small breeds and supports that the lung lobe torsion should also be included in establishing the differential diagnostic lists even in small breed dogs.

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¹⁾ Choi, JH, Yoon, JH. Lung lobe torsion in a Yorkshire terrier. *J Small Anim Pract.* 2006 47(9):557.