

Alimentary Lymphoma in 3 Dogs

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Introduction: Lymphoma is a common neoplasm in dogs and cats, and is anatomically classified. The alimentary form is common in cats, while much less common and accounts for approximately 5% of all cases in dogs. Alimentary lymphoma is much harder to diagnose than multicentric form because peripheral lymph nodes are not involved and nonspecific clinical signs suggest a wide range of more common differential diagnosis. The purpose of this presentation is to provide rapid and appropriate guidance to diagnosis, treatment and prognosis determination through these 3 cases of canine alimentary lymphoma.

Materials and Methods: The 3 dogs were diagnosed with alimentary lymphoma, presented to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Seoul National University in 2006.

To carry out definitive diagnosis, physical examination, complete blood count, serum biochemical analysis, fecal analysis, survey radiography, ultrasonography, sono-guided fine needle aspiration, histopathology through exploratory laparotomy were performed. Major clinical signs were weight loss(n=2), diarrhea(n=2), vomiting(n=3) and anorexia(n=3). In abdominal ultrasonography, enlargement of mesenteric lymph nodes was observed. Fine-needle aspiration(FNA) from the abdominal mass was performed for cytology to support the diagnosis. In hematologic findings, leukocytosis due to severe inflammation, anemia, hypoproteinemia, hypoalbuminemia and hypocalcemia were found in some cases. Through survey radiography, ultrasonography, sono-guided FNA and cytological examination and histopathological findings, these three cases could be diagnosed as canine alimentary lymphoma.

L-CHOP chemotherapy was selected in two cases among three cases after being estimated for the general physical state and owner's agreement was obtained.

Results: Dog No.1 was died of severe panting, senile valvular cardiosis, cardiopulmonic disturbance and supposed anaphylaxis at the time when second shot of chemotherapy was administered. Dog No.2 was returned to the local clinic at client's request and was euthanized due to owner's request. Dog No.3 is still alive without specific clinical signs, with the administration of 9th week chemotherapy of L-CHOP protocol.

Clinical relevance: The alimentary form of canine lymphoma is much less common and could be less easily diagnosed. The presentation of these three cases would be helpful to the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis determination of alimentary lymphoma in dogs.

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