

Thyroid adenocarcinoma in a Maltese dog

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Introduction: Thyroid tumors account for approximately 1 to 4% of all neoplasms and 10 to 15% of head and neck tumors in dogs. Canine thyroid carcinomas are more common than adenoma, and are rapidly growing, highly invasive tumors that frequently metastasize to the draining lymph nodes and lungs.

Material and Method: A 4kg, nine year old, male Maltese dog was presented to Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Konkuk University for evaluation of right side ventral cervical mass and history of exercise intolerance, voice change, and coughing. Serum biochemical abnormalities were elevation of alanine aminotransferase, alkaline phosphates. There was no specific finding in complete blood count. Radiography and ultrasonography revealed unilateral cervical mass surrounding trachea and no lung metastasis. MRI was taken for invasiveness to surrounding tissue and vessels. On CT, metastasis of cervical lymph node and liver were detected. Cervical mass and lymph nodes were surgically removed and evaluated. Histological examination revealed thyroid adenocarcinoma and metastasis to the lymph nodes.

Conclusion: Two trials of chemotherapy using carboplatin was done after surgical resection but discontinued because of development of heart failure and in consideration of the patient's condition. The dog is surviving for 6 months now with no recurrence of cervical mass.

Clinical relevance: Thyroid neoplasm is most common in medium to large breed dogs. This is a case report of thyroid tumor that occurred in a small breed dog..

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