

Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Two Dogs: Miniature Pinscher and Rottweiler Dog

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Introduction: Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a primary myocardial disease characterized by cardiac enlargement and impaired systolic function of one or both ventricles. Despite same DCM, significant variation in the presenting complaint, clinical evaluation, and rate of progression has been observed depending on the breed of dog.

Materials and methods: A 9-month-old intact female Miniature pinscher (MP) dog and 6-year-old intact male Rottweiler dog were evaluated for dyspnea, exercise intolerance, or syncopal episode (Miniature pinscher). Based on minimum database (complete blood counts, serum biochemistry, radiography), electrocardiography (ECG), echocardiography were performed. The patients had same medication after diagnosis.

Results: There was a little difference in diagnostic findings between two dogs. On ECG exam, MP showed tall QRS complex, deep Q wave, left deviation of MEA, sinus rhythms and Rottweiler had atrial fibrillation with ventricular tachycardia. According to echocardiographic findings, MP showed dilated LA and LV, thin interventricular wall and left ventricular wall, low normal FS. And Rottweiler showed dilated LA and LV, thin interventricular wall and left ventricular wall, very low FS, abnormal ventricular wall motions with tachycardia. Response with medical therapy (pimobendan) was quite good.

Clinical relevance: Generally DCM is thought to be a disease of large and medium-sized dog breed. The author reports that two extremely different breed dogs (Miniature pinscher and Rottweiler) having same DCM with diagnostic differences. Although DCM has been recognized in many breeds, DCM occurring in young Miniature pinscher dog is quite rare.

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