

Intra-abdominal Retained Surgical Gauze in Two Dogs

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Introduction: Retained postoperative foreign bodies include suture material, needles, surgical instruments, starch powder from gloves, and gauze sponge. Although retained foreign body is not rare, it is seldom reported due to medicolegal implications. This report describes the diagnosis and treatment of intra-abdominal retained surgical gauze in two dogs

Materials and Methods: One Yorkshire terrier (case1) and one Maltese (case2) had taken ovariohysterectomy 30 and 16 months ago, respectively. They were presented with abdominal distension, depression, anorexia, and fever.

Results: Localized abdominal mass with soft tissue density was observed by survey radiography. Ultrasonography revealed a round hypoechoic mass with irregular hyperechoic contents in case 1 and oval hypoechoic mass with hyperechoic center and acoustic shadowing in case 2. In CT examination of case 2, hyperdense mass with a thick peripheral rim enhancing in contrast study was shown. Cytologic examination of both cases revealed abscess and granuloma, respectively. The lesions were surgically removed in both cases and the mass was identified as a retained surgical gauze by previous surgery.

Clinical relevance: The possibility of retained surgical gauze should be considered in animals with a history of previous surgery with abnormal mass.

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