

Clinical Outcomes of Total Ear Canal Ablation Combined with Lateral and/or Ventral Bulla Osteotomy in Ten Dogs

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Purpose: To evaluate clinical outcomes of total ear canal ablation combined with lateral bulla osteotomy (TECA-LBO) and/or ventral bulla osteotomy (VBO).

Materials and Methods: Medical records from Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Konkuk University from 2002 to 2007 were reviewed in ten dogs that underwent TECA-LBO and/or VBO. Data regarding signalment, presenting complaint, history, radiographic findings, and surgical findings were analyzed. Recovery, complications, and recurrence after surgery were evaluated. Patients follow-up was completed by only medical record.

Results: Chronic otitis media and/or otitis externa were diagnosed by CBC, blood chemistry, cytology, radiology, ultrasonography, and canalography in ten dogs (14 ears). Five were males and five females. Four of ten dogs were bilaterally infected. Mean age was five years. The most common breed was cocker spaniels (64%). Chief complaints were poor response to medical therapy (79%, multiple choice) and obstruction of ear canal (64%). Mean duration of clinical signs before surgical treatment was 2.3 years. Of 14 ears, nine underwent TECA-LBO and five TECA-LBO-VBO. Complications, including facial nerve paralysis (n=5), nystagmus (n=1), wound dehiscence (n=1), and hematoma (n=1), occurred in 43%. All these symptoms resolved within a month.

Conclusion: Chronic otitis externa is difficult to treat completely with medical therapy and easy to progress to otitis media, especially in cocker spaniels. TECA-LBO is efficient method to treat chronic otitis, and VBO can be applied if clinical signs recur after TECA-LBO. These surgical techniques can relieve clinical signs associated with chronic otitis successfully, but complications and recurrence rate are high. Postoperative care with long-term medical check-up at regular interval is recommended.

Keywords: total ear canal ablation and lateral bulla osteotomy (TECA-LBO), ventral bulla osteotomy (VBO), otitis externa, otitis media, dogs

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