Vol.25, No. 2(Suppl.) October 2008

Radiographic and Computed Topographic Evaluation of Thymoma in a Cat

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Signalment. A 7-year-old, domestic short-haired, castrated male cat was referred to the Seoul National University Hospital for Animals because of anorexia, depression and dyspnea. The cat had rough hair, low body condition score (2/5), dehydration and low body temperature. On thoracic auscultation, lung sounds were increased and heart sounds were dull and muffled. There were leukocytosis, eosinophilia and basophilia on the blood profile.

Results. On thoracic radiographic evaluation, severe fluid accumulation was found in the thoracic cavity and left lung was severely infiltrated compared to the right lung. Trachea was elevated dorsally and right laterally. Ultrasound-guided thoracocentesis was performed several times and pleural fluid was chylous or bloody. After thoracocentesis, a large cranial mediastinal mass displacing the heart caudally was identified. On computed tomographic examination, large mass (9.0 x 5.2 cm) with moderately heterogeneous texture and minimal contrast enhancement was revealed. Concurrent displacement of the cranial vena cava, moderate pleural effusion, mild pneumothorax and pneumoperitonium, mild megaesophagus was also identified. Through ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration cytology, thymoma was diagnosed. During the surgery, adhesion to the pericardium and vagal nerve was identified.

Clinical Relevance. Thymoma is usually curative by surgical excision. But occasionally, it can invade adjacent vital structures and surgical removal can put the patient at risk. Radiographic and CT evaluation is a valuable tool in order to perform the surgical procedure with high accuracy and to minimize potential risks.

Key words: Feline thymoma, radiography, computed tomography

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