

Successful Therapy of Coumatetralyl Rodenticide Induced Pericardial Effusion with Pericardiocentesis in a Dog

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Signalment: A 5-year-old, intact male Golden Retriever was presented with an acute onset of lethargy and severe respiratory distress.

Results: The physical examination showed severe depression, mild fever, shallow breathing with weak respirations, and bleeding from the rectum. The complete blood counts showed a mild leukocytosis and moderate anemia with severe thrombocytopenia. The serum biochemical analysis revealed a mild azotemia, marked elevation of creatinin kinase and AST, hypoalbuminemia, and hypoproteinemia. The coagulation panel abnormalities included a prolonged prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time and increased concentrations of fibrin degradation products and elevated D-dimers. The radiographic findings showed signs of a pleural effusion including the interlobar fissure and an air bronchograms around the base of the heart. The echocardiographic examination confirmed a pericardial effusion without anatomical or functional abnormalities of the heart. The history revealed likely rodenticide intoxication.

Clinical relevance: Rodenticide intoxication was strongly suspected based on history and clinical and diagnostic findings. This case report suggests that rodenticide intoxication might cause pericardial effusion including arrhythmias in dog.

Key words: dog, pericardial effusion, rodenticide intoxication

This work was supported by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) grant funded by the Koreas government (MEST) (R11-2002-103).

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