

Lumbar Meningomyelitis of Unknown Etiology in a Maltese Dog

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Signalment: A 9-month-old, Maltese male dog was presented with progressive hind limb paraparesis, signs of pain along the lumbar portion and urinary incontinence of 4 weeks duration.

Results: On the neurologic exam, the dog was suspected to have lumbar myelopathy. Magnetic resonance imaging revealed a spinal cord lesion in the L4 vertebral body. Analysis of cerebrospinal fluid revealed a mononuclear pleocytosis consisting predominantly of lymphocytes. Serologic test for canine distemper virus was negative. The dog was treated with prednisolone and cyclosporine. A clinical response was gradually improved. The dog was able to ambulate and appeared to be pain free in the lumbar region of the vertebral column by 4 weeks after diagnosis. Despite medication, the dog continued to be ataxic and was subsequently euthanased. Histopathological examination revealed diffuse lymphocytic vasculitis/perivasculitis.

Clinical relevance: This is the report of lumbar meningomyelitis of unknown etiology in a dog.

Key words: dog, lumbar meningomyelitis, vasculitis/perivasculitis

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