Cushing's disease Complicated with Thrombosis in a Dog

Sojeung Moon, Junghyun Kim, Jaeim Jang and Heemyung Park*

BK21 Basic & Diagnostic Veterinary Specialist Program for Animal Diseases and Department of Veterinary Internal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University, Seoul, Korea

Signalment: A 12-year-old intact female Shi-tzu was referred for chronic abdominal distention, polyphagia, polyuria, polydipsia and skin lesions. The dog was diagnosed with pituitary dependent hyperadrenocorticism(HAC) based on clinical signs, blood tests and endocrinological tests.

Results: The case had been treated with mitotane. Although clinical signs were gradually improved, the cortisol level was not well controlled. Therefore, the owner declined further medications. The dog was presented with respiratory distress and anorexia 6 months later. On Echocardiography, thrombosis was detected in the right ventricle. The D-Dimer level was 2.2 $\mu g/ml$. The dog died despite of supportive care. Postmortem examination revealed the presence of cardiac thrombi and severe congestion of multiple organs.

Clinical relevance: The risk of thrombosis in HAC dogs may due to hypercoagulable state in response to hypercortisolemia. Therefore patients should be considered conditions associated with high risk of thrombosis and monitored in a lifelong follow-up.

Key words: D-dimer, hyperadrenocorticism, thrombosis

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*Corresponding author: parkhee@konkuk.ac.kr