TRANSMISSIBLE VENEREAL TUMOR IN THE NASAL CAVITY OF A DOG - A CASE REPORT

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A four and-a-half year old male uncastrated Labrador retriever weighing 35 kg was presented with the history of sneezing and epistaxis from the left nares since five days. Cytologic examination of the nasal discharge confirmed as transmissible venereal tumor. Vincristine sulfate was administered weekly @ 0.025 mg/kg, intravenously for three weeks and the animal had an uneventful recovery.

Transmissible venereal tumor (TVT) is a naturally occurring neoplastic disease usually involves the external genitalia of male and female dogs (Cohen, 1985). It mainly occurs in young, sexually mature dogs which have an uncontrolled sexual behavior with incidence ranging from 2 to 43 percent of all tumors in temperate climates. The etiology appears to be cell transplant from affected to unaffected dogs and common at 2-5 years of age (Thacher and Bradley 1983). Presence of venereal tumors in extragenital sites of the skin has also been reported. There are a few reports of localization of the tumor in the nares even in countries where the neoplasm is enzootic (Weir, 1978). The nasal location is thought to result from implantation of tumor cells in the nasal cavity because of nasal genital sniffing habits of the dog.

A four and-a-half year old male uncastrated Labrador retriever weighing 35 kg was presented with the history of sneezing and epistaxis from the left nares since five days and showing normal physiological activities. Hematological parameters were within the normal range and blood picture was normal and negative for blood parasites. Injection Botripase and Cefataxime @ 10mg/kg. bwt. was administered intravenously for three days. The condition get subsided gradually and epistaxis reported only when the animal get excited. The animal had respiratory signs characterized by sneezing, mucoid discharge and epistaxis after two months. Physical examination revealed a mild hard swelling at the left nares region and hard swelling at the palate. Cytologic examination of the nasal discharge revealed numerous discrete spherical nuclei with chromatin granules and multiple vacuolization on cytoplasm confirmed as transmissible venereal tumor (Fig. 1).

Vincristine sulfate was administered weekly @ 0.025 mg/kg, intravenously for three weeks along with supplementation of Liverolin and Dexorange 5ml each BID and the condition subsided after the first dose itself. Chemotherapy has been shown to be the most effective and practical therapy, with vincristine sulfate being the most frequently used drug and for complete remission usually required 2 to 8 injections (Nak et al., 2005).

The tumor may also be transmitted to the oral cavities, skin and the rectum less commonly by sniffing or licking. More rarely, they may be found in other areas, including the lips, oral mucosa, and

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peritoneum or in organs such as the tonsils, eye, liver, spleen, kidney, lung, and musculature (Rogers, et al., 1998). The diagnosis was based on the cytological examination of the nasal discharge which clearly differentiates from other usual nasal tumors (Moulton, 1978). In the present case the diagnosis was made early with cytological examination and the animal recovered uneventfully.

REFERENCES


Fig. 1

Showing numerous discrete spherical nuclei with chromatin granules and multiple vacuolization on cytoplasm