ABSTRACTS

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Inguinal herniation of both uterine horns and the uterine body in a Terrier bitch: A case report

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CLINICAL CASE: A 5-year-old, sexually intact Terrier bitch was presented with a two-year history of inguinal mass. On physical examination, the bitch was healthy with no abnormalities other than having a non-painful and a non-reducible, soft tissue mass in the left inguinal region. Haematology and serum biochemistry results were unremarkable. Predominance of parabasal cells and small intermediate cells and absence of polymorphonuclear leukocytes were found in the vaginal cytology. Radiographic evaluation of the abdomen demonstrated faeces filled loops of intestines where as ultrasonography revealed an organ/tissue with a lumen filled with an anechoic fluid. A tentative diagnosis of an inguinal hernia was made and surgical approach was performed. During the surgery, it was identified that both uterine horns, both broad ligaments and the uterine body were herniated through the inguinal ring. Following the manual reduction of the herniated uterus, a routine ovariohysterectomy was performed and the inguinal ring was closed with simple interrupted sutures. The bitch made an uneventful recovery from the surgery and was sent home after the surgical procedure. Uterine edema, hemorrhage and atrophy without the evidence of pyometra were determined in the histopathological evaluation of the surgically removed tissues. Four months later, the bitch was re-examined and clinical and laboratory examinations were all normal. Twenty-two months after the surgery, the owner indicated that the bitch was clinically healthy with no recurrence or further disease.

DISCUSSION: In the bitch, inguinal hernias have been most commonly reported in middle-aged animals with apparent enlargement of the uterus due to pyometra (1-5) or pregnancy (6). As can be seen in the current case presented here, herniation of the uterus without the presence of pyometra or pregnancy should also be included in the differential diagnosis list for an intact bitch presented with an inguinal mass.