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Extranodal lymphoma of T lymphocyte in the genital tract of a bitch: case report
Felipe, C.B.M.L¹, Trautwein, L.G.C¹, Nóbrega, D.F da², Bracarense, A.P², Martins, M.I.M¹
¹Departamento de Clínicas Veterinárias, ²Departamento de Medicina Veterinária Preventiva, Hospital veterinário, Universidade Estadual de Londrina, PR, Brasil. *imartins@uel.br

Lymphoma is the most common hematopoietic tumor in dogs, affecting middle-aged and elderly animals, with no sex predilection. Clinical signs are diverse and depend on the extent of the disease and its anatomical classification; the multicentric form is the most common and is characterized by generalized, or not, surface lymphadenomegaly. The cutaneous can be divided into epitheliotropic or non epitheliotropic, this being the less common in dogs. Diagnosis is accomplished through aspiration cytology, histopathology and immunohistochemistry. Treatment is predominantly based on chemotherapy, except for cases where there is a need for surgical removal of nodules. Among the most commonly used forms of chemotherapy are CHOP (doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone), COP (cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone) and Wisconsin -Madison with the objective of partial or complete tumor regression and quality of life for the animal. Prognosis depends on the anatomical classification, staging of the disease, haematological laboratory tests and imaging. The objective of this study was to report the case of a bitch, mongrel, 6yr, 3.3 Kg with progressive volume in the vagina and vulva, with a firm aspect of about 5 cm and an evolution of seven days, leukocytosis with deviation, purulent vaginal discharge and dysuria without enlarged lymph nodes. Following aspiration cytology, lymphoma was suspected. After 15 days of supportive treatment, there was worsening of symptoms with necrosis and increased vaginal discharge and urethral obstruction. The treatment was ovariohysterectomy, pre-pubic urethrostomy and full vaginectomy. Through histopathological and immunohistochemical examination with antibodies CD3 CD20.PAX5 and Ki67, non epitheliotropic T-cell lymphoma was diagnosed. After blood tests and an electrocardiogram, it was decided to use COP chemotherapy; however, this was not effective for control or remission due to the aggressive characteristics of the tumor. In the face of all the difficulties and the clinical state of the animal, it was decided to establish palliative care to provide quality of life to the animal. The importance of this report is to alert clinicians that, although rare, non epitheliotropic T lymphoma can occur in the genital tract of bitches and treatment should be instituted quickly to be effective and provide a favorable prognosis. As far as we are aware this is the first reported case of this type.