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The aim of this study is to determine if a second surgical salvage therapy is a viable option for dogs with recurrent metastatic insulinoma (INS). INS is a functional tumour of the beta-cell of the islets of Langerhans that secretes insulin despite the presence of hypoglycaemia. Canine INS metastasises to regional lymph nodes, liver and omentum. Median survival time is significantly longer for dogs treated surgically than for dogs treated medically and varies from 12 to 18 months. Although surgery is the treatment of choice, recurrence of clinical signs caused by the metastases can be expected in most cases. Metastatic INS are normally treated medically and nutritionally and carry a poor prognosis. Recently, two dogs were successfully operated for metastatic INS when clinical signs had recurred after removal of the primary tumour. All abnormal lymph nodes were removed and the liver metastases were ablated using a surgical Nd:YAG laser. Pathological examination of the removed tissue confirmed the diagnosis. Directly after surgery the glucose values increased to high normal. Both dogs are closely examined during the first 12 months after surgery. Preliminary results show that a second surgical salvage therapy is a viable option for dogs with recurrent metastatic INS.

References: