

Surgical Management of Lipoma in a Dog

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Lipomas are benign fatty tumours composed of mature fat cells. These neoplasms are commonly encountered in dogs, occasionally identified in cats and horses, and rarely observed in other domestic species. (Aiello 1998). This paper reports about a case of lipoma in a dog.

Case history and Clinical Examination

A Pomeranian dog aged around 6 years was brought to clinic with the history of soft swelling on ventral aspect of the lower part of the cervical region. Initially, it was small in size and then subsequently increased to the large lemon size with in a period of 3 months. Clinical examination revealed a soft and round tumour on lower cervical region. On palpation, it was soft and painless. The clinical parameters like temperature, pulse rate and respiration rate were within physiological limits.

Surgical treatment

The dog was prepared for aseptic surgery under Atropine sulphate premedication @ 0.04 mg/kg body weight given intramuscularly. The anaesthesia was induced with combination of xylazine hydrochloride and ketamine hydrochloride intramuscularly @ 1 mg/kg and 7mg/kg body weight respectively. The dog was restrained in dorsal recumbency. A 5cm long incision was made over the growth and entire tumour growth was excised completely. The haemostasis was achieved by ligation and electrocautery. The surgical incision was closed as per standard technique.

Post operatively inj ceftifur 500 mg was administered intramuscularly for 5 days and meloxicam 0.2mg/kg body weight intramuscularly for 3 days were administered. The skin sutures were removed on 9th day.

On gross examination the tumour was soft. The cut surface of the tumour was oily and yellowish in colour. Histopathologically numerous polyhydral cells

and each cell contain fat globule and nucleus pushed to one side were observed. No mitotic figures were observed. These findings confirmed as a case of lipoma.

Discussion

Lipomas are usually found in older and over weight dogs and the incidence of neoplasms increase with age (Moulton 1990). They may occur anywhere in the body, but commonly in the subcutis of the chest, abdomen, legs, and axillae. They may appear in the orbital region, (Williams and Haggett 2006) perineal region, (Besalti et al.2004), thigh region (Thomson et al., 1999), and in the body cavity (Mayhew & Brochman, 2002). Albers & Theilen (1995) suggested an alternate method of treatment by injecting 30% calcium chloride directly in to the subcutaneous tumours. The dog made uneventful recovery and no recurrence of the tumor was observed for upto 6 months. The reason for non recurrence in the present case might be due to its complete excision and early diagnosis as opined by Krank et al., (1985).

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