

Case Study

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A Rare Case of Tibiotalar Dislocation in a Rabbit and Its Management

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ABSTRACT

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A 1.5 years old male rabbit was presented to Orthopaedics Unit, Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital with the history of non-weight bearing lameness on left hindlimb. Clinical examination revealed pain, crepitus and a punctured wound on the tibiotalar joint. Orthogonal view of plain radiography of left hindlimb revealed postero-lateral tibiotalar dislocation. Under general anesthesia, tibiotalar joint was stabilised with intramedullary pin. Arthrodesis at the tibiotalar joint was achieved at 8th week postoperatively. Animal recovered uneventfully.

Introduction

Postero-lateral dislocation of the tibiotalar joint without fracture is an unusual injury (Soyer *et al.*, 1994). Tibiotalar dislocations are classified into five types based on the direction of the dislocation: anterior, posterior, medial, lateral or, superior combined. Tibiotalar dislocation without concomitant fracture occurs when the ankle sustains a combination of inversion and axial loading forces during maximal plantar flexion of the foot (Uyar *et al.*, 2004).

Case history and observation

A 1.5 years old male rabbit was presented with the history of non-weight bearing lameness on left hindlimb. Clinical

examination revealed pain, crepitus and a punctured wound on the tibiotalar joint. Orthogonal view of plain radiography of left hindlimb revealed postero-lateral tibiotalar dislocation (Figure 1).

Treatment and Discussion

Temporary immobilisation was done with soft cotton bandage. Mask induction was done with isoflurane 4% and 100% oxygen. General anesthesia was maintained with 2% isoflurane. Left hindlimb was aseptically prepared for surgery. Traction was applied. Normograde intramedullary pinning was done by using 1.2 mm Kirshner wire (Figure 2). Intraoperative C- arm radiography confirmed the position and placement of intramedullary pin. Soft cotton bandage was applied postoperatively.



Fig.1 Postero-lateral tibiotalar dislocation

Fig.2 Tibiotalar dislocation stabilised with intramedullary pin



Fig.3 Remodelling of the bone after implant removal during 12th week with bridging callus

Bandaging and wound cleaning was done on alternative days for a week. Restricted movement and confinement was advised for next three weeks follow up. Postoperative radiograph revealed periosteal and bridging callus formation on 4th week (Figure 3). Full weight bearing and normal range of motion was achieved on 6th week postoperatively. Implant removal was done 12th week

postoperatively. Animal had an uneventful recovery.

Tibiotalar dislocation without fracture is rare and usually due to a high traumatic energy mechanism. Among the four types of dislocation, postero-lateral is common and associated with cutaneous injuries. Treatment involves closed surgical reduction followed

by immobilisation. Prognosis is good and requires long term monitoring to combat the appearance of subtalar arthrosis (Azarkane *et al.*, 2014).

In the present case, tibiotalar dislocation was successfully managed with closed reduction using intramedullary pinning.

References

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