



Case Study

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.709.207>

Surgical Management of Pyometra in a Bitch - A Case Report

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A B S T R A C T

Keywords

Bitch, Pyometra,
Ovario-hysterectomy

Article Info

Accepted:
12 August 2018
Available Online:
10 September 2018

A five year old unspayed female Labrador dog weighing 28 kilogram was presented in Veterinary Clinical Complex, LUVAS, Hisar with a history of dehydration, uterine discharge, distended abdomen, vomiting, anorexia, Anuria, inability to walk and pyrexia. On clinical examination, the rectal temperature was recorded as 104.3°F, with swollen vulva and pus discharge. The bitch was treated with prostaglandins and antibiotics however, the bitch failed to respond the treatment. Based on the history, clinical observations, radiography and ultrasonography it was diagnosed as pyometra. Ovario-hysterectomy was performed. The animal recovered uneventfully.

Introduction

Pyometra is the accumulation of pus within the uterine lumen, typically occurring during or immediately following a period of progesterone dominance.

The elevated progesterone levels help to create the ideal conditions for infection and stimulate uterine glandular secretions within the uterus, which suppresses uterine contractions (Cox, 1970) and inhibits the effect of fighting blood cells in the uterus. Canine pyometra is a common reproductive disorder of intact, diestrus bitch affects nearly one fourth of all female dogs before they reach ten year of age (Baithal et al., 2010). The infection begins as

an abnormal increase in the number of glands in the uterus. The secretions of these glands provide an excellent environment for bacteria that enter the uterus from the vagina. Once the uterus is infected, it can become filled with purulent material and progress to become a life threatening condition.

Case History and Observations

A 5 year old Labrador bitch, previously 2 times whelped was presented to the VCC, Hisar with the history of dehydration, uterine discharge, distended abdomen, vomiting, anorexia, polyuria, inability to walk and pyrexia. On clinical examination, the animal appeared dull with 104.3°F fever, pulse and

respiratory rate were 97/min and 62/min respectively, swollen vulva and pus discharge. Haematological examination revealed reduced haemoglobin (7.8 g/dl) levels with increased neutrophils (82%).

Treatment and Discussion

Initially, it was decided to give a therapy for pyometra with inj. Lutalyse (Dinoprostromethamine@ 0.2 mg/kg bw s/c twice daily for 3 days), inj. Ceftiforce SB 625mg @ 10mg/kg bwi/m twice daily) along

with supportive therapy (Inj. NSS 500 ml, I/V along with inj. Eldervet 2 ml, I/V) for 3 days, but no significant improvement on health was seen, so ovario-hysterectomy was performed under general anaesthesia as per standard procedure.

Antiseptic dressing of the surgical wound was carried out along with antibiotic and supportive therapy (Inj. Melonex 2 ml, I/M, 3 days; Syp. Polybion 5 ml, bid, PO, 15 days and Inj. DNS 5% 500 ml, I/V, 3 days). The animal had uneventful recovery.

Photograph showing large sized uterus with pus after exteriorization through caudal midventral abdominal incision



Pyometra is typically a post-oestral syndrome in adult bitches associated with a variety of clinical and pathological manifestations of genital and multi-systemic disease. It is postulated that intrauterine bacteria, which ascend from the vagina during pro-oestrus and oestrus, induce the disease during metoestrus by acting on the progesterone-primed endometrium directly via toxin production, or indirectly by the release of inflammatory mediators (Noakes *et al.*, 2001). The commonest clinical signs associated with pyometra include vaginal discharge, lethargy, polyuria, polydipsia, emesis and hyperthermia followed by hypothermia (Verstegen, 2006). The animal presented to hospital also

exhibited similar symptoms. The presence of a vaginal discharge allows for a distinction between open and closed pyometra. The present case did not show complete recovery with medical treatment which could be attributed to voluminous pus present in the uterus. Singh *et al.*, (2008) opined that medical management of canine pyometra is successful in early stages and ovariohysterectomy is choice of treatment in late phases of pyometra (Roberts, 1971).

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How to cite this article:

Nitin Soni, Rakesh Duggal, Ajit Verma, Pinki Rani, Anand Kumar Pandey and Sandeep Kumar. 2018. Surgical Management of Pyometra in a Bitch - A Case Report. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 7(09): 1714-1716. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.709.207>