

Case Study

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Surgical Management of Intestinal Foreign Body Obstruction in Labrador Retriever Dog- A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

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Foreign body obstruction is mainly presented as an emergency condition in dogs and cats. The condition is mostly commonly seen in young playful pet animals. An eight months old Labrador retriever dog presented with the complaint of persistent vomiting and absence of defaecation was subjected to physical and radiographic examination to tentatively diagnose the condition as foreign body obstruction. The animal was subjected to exploratory laparotomy to remove the foreign body and thereby confirming the tentative diagnosis. Post operatively the patient was maintained in fluids, antibiotics and other supportive therapy for five days. The animal was reported to have recovered uneventfully.

Introduction

Foreign body obstruction is mainly found as medical emergency in dogs and cats. The playful nature of them often leads to this condition (Tripathi *et al.*, 2010 and Uma Rani *et al.*, 2010). The foreign bodies become a medical emergency when the ingested foreign body becomes strangulated in some point of the alimentary tract. Most commonly such type of obstruction is seen in the small intestinal region where the lumen diameter becomes narrower. An 8 month old Labrador retriever presented with the complaint of

persistent vomiting and absence of defaecation was subjected to physical and radiographic examination and was diagnosed as foreign body obstruction. An emergency laparotomy was done to recover the foreign body.

Materials and Methods

Anamnesis and diagnosis

An eight months old Labrador retriever dog was presented with the complaint that the animal is exhibiting persistent vomiting and

absence of defaecation. Physical and radiographic examination diagnosed the condition as foreign body obstruction in the small intestine.

Surgical procedure

The animal was premedicated with atropine hydrochloride at the dose rate 0.045mg per kilogram body weight and xylazine hydrochloride at the rate of 1.5mg per kilogram body weight intramuscularly. The anaesthesia was induced with ketamine hydrochloride at a dose rate of 5mg per kilogram body weight intramuscularly and diazepam at the dose rate 0.2mg per kilogram body weight intravenously. The anaesthesia was maintained with ketamine: diazepam 1:1(v/v) as intravenous injection 'to effect'.

The surgical site was clipped shaved and prepared aseptically, for mid ventral laparotomy. A skin incision was made between the xiphoid and umbilicus. The linea alba was exposed and a knick incision was made in the linea alba and it was extended with scissors. The intestinal loops were exteriorized to locate the foreign body. The foreign body was found lodged in the jejunum. After locating it, the loops were

placed back into the abdominal cavity. Doyens Clamp was applied on either side of the foreign body and thoroughly packed to prevent the spillage into the abdominal cavity. An incision was made in the anti mesenteric border of intestine. A stone measuring around 5 cm in diameter was recovered from the intestinal lumen. The incision was closed in a double inversion suture pattern. Replaced the intestinal loop back into the abdominal cavity and muscle and skin were apposed in a routine manner. Post operatively the animal was maintained on fluids, antibiotics and supportive therapy for five days. Oral feeding was started on the third day.

Results and Discussion

An eight months old Labrador Retriever dog presented with persistent vomiting and absence of defaecation was diagnosed as foreign body obstruction following physical and radiographic examination. The animal was subjected to laparotomy to remove the stone that was strangulated in the intestine. Post operatively the animal was maintained on fluids, antibiotics and other supportive therapy for five days. The animal was reported to have recovered uneventfully.

Fig.1 Radiograph showing the presence of foreign body





Fig.2 Exteriosed intestinal loop with the foreign body



Fig.3 Intestinal incision after removing the foreign body and suturing



Fig.4 Foreign body after the removal

Foreign body obstruction can be considered as a medical emergency. The playful habit in the animals is the most common reason for this condition (Tripathi *et al.*, 2010 and Uma Rani *et al.*, 2010) especially when ingested object's diameter exceeds the lumen diameter of the alimentary tract. According to Boag *et al.*, (2005) the gastrointestinal obstruction often leads to electrolyte and acid base imbalance which lead to the development of an emergency situation and pose a threat to the animals life. Perforations and subsequent peritonitis can become fatal to the life of the patient (Evans *et al.*, 1994). Prompt presentation, diagnosis and surgical intervention play a major role in the positive outcome in case of gastro intestinal obstructions (Hayes, 2009).

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