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► To cite this version:

Inès Khemri, Catherine Layssol-Lamour, Mallaurie Penent, Rafael Bernardes, Hanna Mila. Uterine haemangiosarcoma of a spayed female dog. European Veterinary Society for small animal reproduction (EVSSAR), Jun 2024, Barcelone, Spain. <hal-04888590>

HAL Id: hal-04888590

<https://hal.science/hal-04888590v1>

Submitted on 15 Jan 2025

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Uterine haemangiosarcoma of a spayed female dog



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Introduction. Canine haemangiosarcoma (HSA) is a common malignant tumor of endothelial cells of blood vessels. Although angiosarcomas can arise in any region of the body (most frequently in the liver, heart, spleen, and skin) it is rarely observed in the genital tract in animals or humans. Only a few cases of haemangiosarcoma were reported in the dog, with tumors localized in the vulva and vagina.

Case presentation.

A 6-year-old spayed border collie female dog spayed at 1 year of age was presented for vulvar hemorrhagic discharge that had been occurring for two weeks.

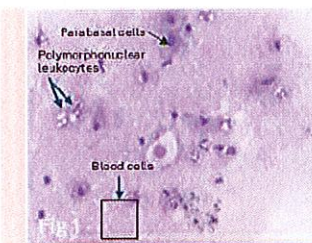
Physical examination.

It revealed a palpable and painful abdominal mass in the caudal region of the right abdomen. A digital vaginal examination showed no abnormalities.

Differential diagnosis.

- Reproductive tract disorders: ovarian remnant syndrome, vaginitis, vaginal or vestibular mass, vascular ectasia
- Urinary tract disease
- Coagulopathy
- Foreign body

Complementary exams.



Vaginal cytology

- Parabasal cells
- Blood cells
- Polymorphonuclear leukocytes
- No bacteria

VARIABLE	RESULTS	AVERAGE
White blood cells (x10 ³ /μL)	19,80	3,88-14,57
Segmented neutrophils (x10 ³ /μL)	17,42	2,1-11,2
Lymphocytes (x10 ³ /μL)	0,93	0,70-9,30
Monocytes (x10 ³ /μL)	1,26	0-1,2
Eosinophils (x10 ³ /μL)	0,15	0-1,2
Basophils (x10 ³ /μL)	0,01	0-0,13
Hematocrit (%)	31,5	37,5-60,3
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	10,4	14,1-20,1
Platelets (x10 ³ /μL)	355	129-395

Hemogram and biochemistry

- Mild normocytic regenerative anemia
- Neutrophilic leukocytosis
- Lymphopenia
- PT/APTT were within normal limits

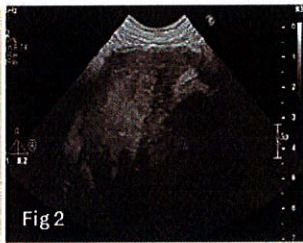


Fig 2

Abdominal ultrasonography

- Large heterogeneous, cavitary mass was seen at the tip of the right uterine horn.
- A discrete peritoneal effusion was also detected

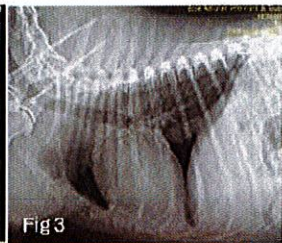


Fig 3

Thoracic radiography

- Absence of distant metastasis

Management and follow-up.

Surgical excision of the uterus and histopathological examination were performed (Fig 4). Histopathological analysis revealed a hemangiosarcoma of the uterus, which was confirmed using immunohistochemical endothelial markers CD31 (Fig 5).

By the 2-month follow-up, the dog showed anorexia and lethargy with a hemorrhagic vulvar discharge. Thus, the owners opted for euthanasia.

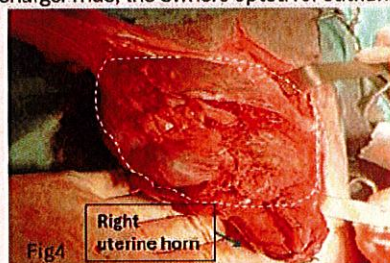


Fig 4

Right uterine horn

Histopathological examination.

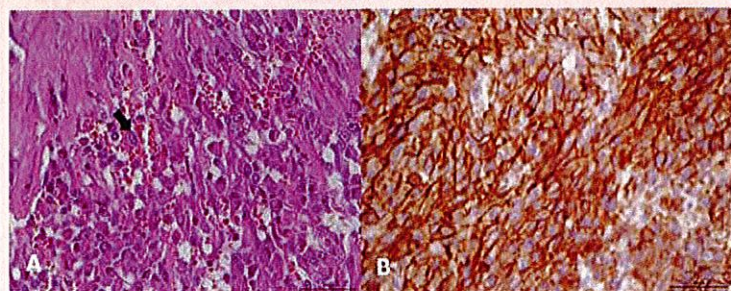


Fig 5 A: The neoplasm is composed of pleomorphic spindle cells that form numerous irregular blood-filled vascular channels. Neoplastic cells have oval to irregular nuclei with finely stippled chromatin and one or more prominent nucleoli (arrows). **B:** Immunohistochemical expression of endothelial marker CD31. Tumor cells are strongly positive for CD31.

Discussion and conclusion.

HSAs are malignant tumors of vascular endothelial cells. In the current case, the histomorphological findings such as marked anisocytosis, anisonucleosis and irregular vascular canals surrounded by polymorphic neoplastic cells confirmed the tumor as HSA. No breed predisposition was specified in the literature [1]. Some studies suggest that neutering may be associated with an increased risk of splenic and cardiac haemangiosarcoma in the dog [1]. Spayed female dogs have 5 times more risk of HSA than intact females [2], studies suggested, cells that become sensitive to estrogen as a result of multiple cycles may undergo neoplastic transformation with the disappearance of the protective effect of estrogen after sterilization. Thus, the diagnosis of uterine haemangiosarcoma should be included in the differential list of causes for vaginal bleeding including in spayed female dogs [3]. Etiological factors predisposing to haemangiosarcoma are thus poorly understood and require further investigation.

[1] Clendaniel DC, Sivacolurdu RK, Sorenmo KU, Denovon TA, Turner A, Artoe T, et al. Association between macroscopic appearance of liver lesions and liver histology in dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma: 79 cases (2004–2009). J Am Anim Hosp Assoc 2014; 50: e9–s10.

[2] Ware WA, Hooper DL. Cardiac tumors in dogs: 1982–1995. J Vet Intern Med 1999; 13: 95–103.

[3] Torres da Silva G, Hart BL, Forner TB, Oberbauer AM, McV Measam LL, Willis N, et al. Neutering dogs: Effects on joint disorders and cancers in golden retrievers. PLoS One 2013; 8: e55937.

