

Favorable Survival with Hemangiosarcoma

Cutaneous hemangiosarcoma (HSA) appears to have a lower rate of metastasis and longer survival times compared with HSA in other locations. Studies have linked environmental factors (eg, UV radiation) to cutaneous HSA; others have linked the disease to thin hair coats and light pigmentation.

Ninety-four dogs with histopathologically confirmed dermal HSA were included in this study. The majority (77%) developed locoregional recurrence, defined as any new tumor in the same regional area of skin clinically consistent with HSA. Whippets and pit bull terriers were the most common breeds diagnosed with dermal HSA. The ventrum was the most common location, resulting in a likelihood to develop additional tumors on the ven-

trum. Overall median survival time was 987 days; dogs with dermal HSA on the ventrum and solar histologic changes had longer survival times than those with dermal HSA in other locations. Dogs of nonpredisposed breeds without ventral involvement or solar changes, or with SC involvement, were more likely to develop metastasis. Results suggested that 2 forms of dermal HSA exist: a solar-induced form affecting thin-coated dogs with good prognosis, and an aggressive nonsolar form seen in nonpredisposed breeds in nonventral areas with thicker coating. Full staging is suggested in order to characterize the disease, as well as biopsies for UV-induced actinic changes.

■ Commentary

The word *hemangiosarcoma* is typically

associated with a negative outcome, but this report provided a reminder that it is possible to have favorable survival in a patient with a dermal lesion. Although prognosis should still be guarded, a full staging process with biopsy is recommended in order to make appropriate follow-up recommendations. Attention to the regions surrounding the sentinel lesion is necessary to monitor for regional recurrence. Full examination, diagnostics, and referral to an oncologist is recommended. —Heather Troyer, DVM, DABVP, CVA

■ ■ Source

Clinical outcome in 94 cases of dermal hemangiosarcoma in dogs treated with surgical excision: 1993-2007. Szivek A, Burns RE, Geri-cota B, et al. *VET COMP ONCOL* 10:65-73, 2012.

Enrofloxacin for Canine UTIs

The present randomized, controlled, blinded clinical trial compared the efficacy of high-dose short-duration (HDSD) enrofloxacin treatment with a conventional 14-day course of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid in treating uncomplicated canine urinary tract infections (UTIs). Adult dogs ($n = 68$) with clinical and microbiological evidence of UTI were randomly assigned to 2 study groups. Group 1 ($n = 35$) received enrofloxacin 18–20 mg/kg PO q24h for 3 days. Group 2 ($n = 33$) received amoxicillin-clavulanic acid 13.75–25 mg/kg q24h for 14 days. Urine cultures were obtained and clinical signs and adverse events recorded on day 0 and day 10 (group 1) or day 21 (group 2). Long-term clinical and microbiological cure was also determined at day 21 (group 1 only). Results found microbiologic cure rate was 77.1% and 81.2% for groups 1 and 2, respectively. Clinical cure rate was 88.6% and 87.9%, respectively. Differences between cure rates were not statistically significant, indicating that HDSD treatment with enrofloxacin is not inferior to conventional 14-day amoxicillin-clavulanic acid for uncomplicated canine UTIs. HDSD was well tolerated. HDSD enrofloxacin can be considered as an alternative treatment in uncomplicated canine UTIs. Further research on compliance and antimicrobial-resistance is needed.

■ Commentary

In humans with uncomplicated UTI, short treatment duration and decreased dosing frequency of antimicrobials have been reported to increase compliance, lower costs, decrease adverse effects, and may be as effective as conventional, longer term protocols. To date, the efficacy of a HDSD antimicrobial regimen in naturally occurring, uncomplicated UTI in dogs has not been evaluated.

In this study, HDSD enrofloxacin treatment was not inferior to a conventional 14-day amoxicillin-clavulanic acid for uncomplicated bacterial UTI in dogs. Additional studies will be necessary for guidelines on protocols. It is possible that shortened dosing protocols will positively impact compliance; however, questions remain about adverse effects and antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance of canine uropathogens to fluoroquinolones has been reported, and it is unknown what impact this will have on selection for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.—Gregory F. Grauer, DVM, MS, DACVIM (*Small Animal*)

■ ■ Source

Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of high dose short duration enrofloxacin treatment regimen for uncomplicated urinary tract infection in dogs. Westropp JL, Sykes JE, Irom S, et al. *J Vet Intern Med* 26:506-512, 2012.

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