

Small Intestinal B Cell Lymphoma with Unexpectedly Long Survival in Three Young Dogs

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Small intestinal lymphoma is the second most common extra-nodal lymphoma in dogs. It is thought to arise from the mucosal associated lymphoid tissue (MALT). Such tumours are often high grade T cell lymphoma and the prognosis is considered poor with reported survival times ranging between 13 to 77 days. At QVSH we have seen a small number of young dogs with intestinal lymphoma experiencing unexpectedly long survival times, warranting a review of the presentation and histopathology.

A 1 year old male neutered Bishon Frise was presented for vomiting and anorexia. Ultrasound of the abdomen revealed a jejunal mass and mesenteric lymphadenopathy, liver and spleen were normal. Chest radiography revealed sternal lymphadenopathy. The jejunal mass and mesenteric lymph node were removed. The dog was treated with high dose COP chemotherapy protocol for 2 years and was alive at the time of writing at 1020 days after diagnosis.

A 4 years old female neutered Labrador, presented for chronic diarrhoea. Abdominal ultrasound revealed enlarged mesenteric lymph nodes and a thick jejunum and ileocecolic junction. A biopsy was obtained via exploratory laparotomy from both intestinal areas and mesenteric lymph node. The dog was treated with a short course of prednisolone, she was alive at the time of writing study at 510 days.

A 4 years old entire female Airedale terrier presented with melaena and anaemia. Abdominal ultrasound revealed a mass in the jejunum and a large mesenteric lymph node. No other abnormalities in the chest and abdomen were visualised. The intestinal mass and mesenteric lymph node were removed. The dog was treated with low dose COP for 2 years, the lymphoma relapsed 4 years later, total survival was 2520 days.

The tissue samples from each case were reviewed by a qualified pathologist and the diagnosis was confirmed by histopathology and immunohistochemistry. All three jejunal lymphomas were comprised of intermediate to large cells with nucleus size between 2-2.5 the size of a red blood cell and confirmed as high grade lymphoma, all were classified as B cell based on the CD79b positivity.

This short series highlights the possibility that small intestinal B cell lymphoma with jejunal involvement could have a better prognosis than other canine small intestinal lymphomas. We welcome similar cases for a larger series to confirm our observation.

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