ACUTE ABDOMEN IN DOG: TORSION OF THE SPLEEN

Evija Liepina
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Latvia University of Agriculture
evija_liepina@inbox.lv

INTRODUCTION. Torsion of the spleen is rare in both companion animals and also humans. This condition usually is an emergency case. To make diagnosis is difficult and requires radiography and ultrasonography (Simeonova G et al., 2007). This study is about 9 years old German shepard dog which where presented with acute and enlarged abdomen. Periodical wommiting was also presented. Ultrasonography was performed where enlarged and diclocated spleen was diagnosticed and spleenic torsion susspected. A diagnostic laporatomy was made and after splenectomy the dog recovered.

CASE HISTORY. An 9 years old German shepard dog with body weight of 45 kg was presented in SIA „Beinerts" veterinary hospital with periodical wommiting and enlarged abdomen. The dog did not want to move. The body temperature was increased (40º C) and the mucosa membranes looked anemic. The animal was letargic and had no apetite. Blood cells count and serum biochemical analyses where normal excluding alanine transaminaze and asparate aminotransferase which where moderately increased. The animal had previous vet check and was treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory grugs and spasmolitics where used but had no effect. Abdominal ultrasound was performed and enlarged, hyperechoic with several anechoic areas, round structured, dislocated spleen was seen. A large amount of anechoic, non celular fluid in the abdomen was also seen. The diagnostic laporatomy due to spleen torsion was made and twisted spleen finded. After the splenectomy dog recovered well.

CONCLUSIONS. Abdominal ultrasonography is easy performed and sensitive method but not specific for diagnosis of spleen torsion,

Other image impriving techniques are needed such as colour Doppler to imbrobe the quality of image (Dominoque and Anjou, 2008).

In this case ultrasonography was the key diagnostic tool to pose the diagnosis of spleen torsion.