



GALLBLADDER HEMANGIOSARCOMA IN A DOMESTIC FERRET

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ABSTRACT:

Hemangiosarcoma, also referred to as angiosarcoma or hemangioendothelioma, consists of an extremely malignant neoplasia arising from the vascular endothelium, rarely found in ferrets. Because of this cellular origin, primary or secondary hemangiosarcoma can be found in almost every anatomical region. This case report describes a 4-year-old male neutered ferret presented with vomiting, icterus, and cranial abdominal pain. A biochemistry profile revealed hyperglobulinemia and high concentrations of alanine aminotransferase, alkaline phosphatase, and total bilirubin. Ultrasonography showed gallbladder distension and extrahepatic bile duct obstruction. A cholecystectomy was performed, and 6 choleliths were removed. A histopathological examination found a biliary hemangiosarcoma involving the gallbladder and biliary duct in conjunction with suppurative visceral peritonitis. Few case reports of cholestasis and cholelithiasis have been previously documented in ferrets. In our patient, it is likely there was an obstructive component secondary to neoplasia. This last condition could have led to the development of lithiasis. Based on histological diagnosis, postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy was performed with a continuous oral low-dose chemotherapy consisting of etoposide at 50 mg/m² administered in 3-week cycles alternating with cyclophosphamide 25 mg/m². Meloxicam was continuously administered at 0.2 mg/kg. No major adverse effects have been seen during the treatment, and any evidence of tumor recurrence or metastasis has not been detected for the last 6 months, although there is a high likelihood of relapse. To the authors' knowledge, this is the first hemangiosarcoma reported in a ferret receiving etoposide, a toxin found in the American Mayapple which prevents religation of the DNA strands.

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