A Case of Osseous Metaplastic Paraprostatic Cyst in a Boxer Dog

M. Maden, O. Ozdemir, O.F. Hatipoglu, A.S. Ozturk and M. Arican
Department of Veterinary Clinical Science, Veterinary Internal Medicine,
Veterinary Pathology, Veterinary Surgery, University of Selcuk, Konya, Turkey

Abstract: This report describes a paraprostatic cyst in a sexually intact 7 years old Boxer. The clinical history of the dog revealed dysuria, hematuria, constipation and lameness in the right hind leg. An abdominal mass were discovered on clinical examination of the dog. Transabdominal ultrasonographic examination showed an abdominal mass with a cavernous pattern and a hyperechoic wall. The mass was filled with anechoic fluid and was observed to be related to the prostate and adjacent to the urinary bladder. It was decided to remove the mass surgically. Microscopic evaluation of the cystic mass revealed necrotic debris in the lumen along with fibrin; the cyst wall was rich in fibrous tissue and contained bony structures. The prostatic cyst described in this study was identified as an osseous metaplastic paraprostatic cyst on the basis of the clinical, laboratory, ultrasonographic and microscopic findings.

Key words: Cyst, prostate, abdominal mass, ultrasonography, osseous metaplasia, dog

INTRODUCTION

Diseases of the prostate gland are seen in intact male dogs, especially of middle-sized and large breeds (Krawiec and Heflin, 1992). Prostatic disorders include benign prostatic hyperplasia, squamous metaplasia, prostatic cyst, acute or chronic bacterial prostatitis, prostatic abscess and neoplasia (Palcicova et al., 2006).

Prostatic cysts in dogs have been divided into two classes: Parenchymal and non-parenchymal cysts (Jubb et al., 1985; Gorman, 1996). An alternative classification divides prostatic cysts in dogs into 4 types: multiple cysts associated with prostatic hypertrophy, retention cysts, paraprostatic cysts and cysts associated with squamous metaplasia (Barsanti and Finco, 1995). The prevalence of prostatic cysts in adult, intact male dogs has been reported to be 2.6-5.3% (Weaver, 1978), 2 (1.13%) of 177 cases (Krawiec and Heflin, 1992) and 12 (1.4%) of 85 dogs (Black et al., 1998).

Paraprostatic cysts are large structures that develop between the prostate gland and the urinary bladder (Olson et al., 1987). Paraprostatic cysts have very little to do with the prostate gland directly (Johnston et al., 2000) but a close association is not necessary (Wallace, 2001). Mineralization may be seen in the cyst wall (Barr, 1990; Girard and Despots, 1995; Zekas et al., 2004; Palcicova et al., 2006) and cartilaginous or osseous metaplasia can occasionally be observed in the walls of these cystic structures (Girard and Despots, 1995; Gorman, 1996; Wright et al., 1996; Zekas et al., 2004). Radiography and diagnostic ultrasonography along with clinical and laboratory findings have been used successfully in the diagnosis of prostatic disease (Weaver, 1978; Jubb et al., 1985; Maden et al., 2000; Head and Francis, 2002; Palcicova et al., 2006). Ultrasonography allows much more sensitive imaging of the prostate than radiology and facilitates very detailed inspection of the inner structure and morphology of the gland (Johnston et al., 1989).

Paraprostatic cysts can be seen as an additional fluid-filled sac, commonly adjacent to the urinary bladder (Barr, 1990; Mattoon and Nyland, 1995; Miyabayashi, 2001). Basic treatment methods for paraprostatic cysts include resection, marsupialization or partial prostatectomy (Weaver, 1978; Bakalov et al., 2004).

CASE STUDY

In this report, a case of osseous metaplastic paraprostatic cyst was defined on the basis of clinical, laboratory, ultrasonographic and histopathologic findings in a boxer dog. The dog was seven years old, male and sexually intact when it was admitted to the Department of Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Selcuk, Konya, Turkey.
Table 1: Laboratory findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood/Screen</th>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Urine</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WBC (10^9 mm^-3)</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBC (10^12 mm^-3)</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>Specific gravity</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCV (%)</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGB (g dl^-1)</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>Oecult blood</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCV (um^3)</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>Nitrite</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCH (pg)</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>WBC/HPF</td>
<td>TnTC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHC (g dl^-1)</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>RBC/HPF</td>
<td>TnTC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLT (10^12 mm^-3)</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>Transitional epithel</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUN (mg dl^-1)</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>Renal epithel</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR (mg dl^-1)</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>Casts HPF</td>
<td>1-2 granular</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*TnTC* = Too Numerous To Count, HPF = High Power Field

**History:** The presenting complaints were a swelling of the size of an egg located in the left abdominal wall, anorexia and cachexia. The clinician was informed that the dog had been suffering from dysuria and bloody urine for 2 days together with constipation and lameness in the right hind leg.

**Physical examination findings:** Hypertrophy of the left inguinal lymph node and an intra-abdominal mass the size of a handball (50-60 cm diameter) were found on clinical examination of the dog. The prostate gland was painless, immobile, asymmetric and elongated. Its border with the horizontal right lobe of the prostate gland was indistinct on rectal examination.

**Laboratory findings:** Pyuria and hematuria were found on examination of a urine sample while the hematologic findings were normal (Table 1). A sample of fluid was obtained by ultrasound-guided needle aspiration of the abdominal mass. The fluid was reddish-brown and a large number of erythrocytes and several leukocytes were seen on cytological examination. No bacteria were isolated by bacteriologic culture of fluid aspirated from the abdominal mass.

**Ultrasoundographic examination findings:** Hypertrophy of the left inguinal lymph node and an abdominal mass connected to the prostate gland and adjacent to urinary bladder were demonstrated on ultrasonographic examination. The intra-abdominal mass had a cavernous structure and its wall was hyperechoic while its contents were anechoic (Fig. 1a, b).

**Surgical findings:** During the surgical operation, it was discovered that the intra-abdominal mass was connected to the prostate gland and adjacent to the urinary bladder (Fig. 2a, b). The mass contained 2.5-3 L of reddish-brown fluid. This fluid was emptied and the mass was excised from the prostate by ligation. The wall of the mass which was totally extirpated was hard with osseous structures (Fig. 3a). The neck part of the mass was observed bony formed cystic wall when removed from the prostate, the lumen of the mass was found to be filled with necrotic tissue (Fig. 3b).
Histopathologic findings: Microscopic evaluation of the cystic mass revealed necrotic debris in the lumen along with fibrin; the cyst wall was rich in fibrous tissue and contained bony structures. The hyperplastic prostate was characterized by increased epithelial tissue and papillary formations while fibrous tissue was increased in the interstitium and mononuclear cell infiltration and neutrophil accumulations were detected in the lumen (Fig. 4a-d).

This study describes the diagnosis of an osseous metaplastic paraprostatic cyst, a type of prostatic cyst which is reported only occasionally in a sexually intact 7 years old boxer dog. The clinical findings associated with paraprostatic disease previously reported in dogs include systemic signs, gastrointestinal signs, lower urinary tract disorders, musculoskeletal manifestations and reproductive problems (Barsanti and Finco, 1993; Gorman, 1996; Johnston et al., 2000; Head and Francis, 2002; Pacloica et al., 2006).

In two case reports of mineralized paraprostatic cysts it was noted that abdominal distention, pollakuria, hematuria, bloody urethral discharge and mild proteinuria are common clinical findings. These researchers also reported the finding of an intra-abdominal mass in the caudal abdomen that had mineralization and hyperechogenicity in the wall structure on radiographic and ultrasonographic examination (Girard and Despots, 1995; Mattoon and Nyland, 1995; Zekas et al., 2004).

In the case reported herein, anorexia, cachexia, dysuria, hematuria, pyuria, constipation, locomotory disorders and lameness in right hind leg, together with an immobile, painless and asymmetric prostate gland on rectal palpation were the clinical findings associated with prostatic disease. The normal hematologic findings and the palpation of a painless and immobile prostate gland suggested a non-inflammatory process in the prostate gland. The asymmetry in the right lobe of the prostate gland was interpreted to represent intra-abdominal progression of the paraprostatic cyst while the hematuria and pyuria were considered to be the results of secondary lower urinary tract infection.

On clinical examination, hypertrophy of the left inguinal lymph node and an intra-abdominal mass were detected in this case. It was determined that the intra-abdominal mass was connected to the prostate gland and adjacent to the urinary bladder on ultrasonographic examination. Ultrasonography is a useful tool in the assessment of prostatic size, surface contour and parenchymal pattern (Barsanti and Finco, 1993; Miles, 1989; Cartee et al., 1998; Dorfman and Barsanti, 1995; Mattoon and Nyland, 1995; Maden et al., 2000).

An increase in the echogenicity of the prostate gland can be observed in most prostatic disorders including stromal proliferation, chronic inflammation, neoplasia, fibrosis and hyperplasia while a decrease in echogenicity may indicate a retention cyst, abscess, acute inflammation or parenchymal oedema (Feeney et al., 1985, 1987; Adams and Evans, 1989; Barsanti and Finco, 1993; Barr, 1990). Mineralization can be seen occasionally and segments of cartilaginous or osseous metaplasia may be found within the wall of the cystic structure (Girard and Despots, 1995; Wright et al., 1996; Zekas et al., 2004).

The intra-abdominal paraprostatic cyst reported here was connected with the prostate gland. Ultrasonographic examination showed that it had a cavernous structure and
its wall was hypechoic while its contents were anechoic. The ultrasonographic findings and negative bacteriologic culture of the contents of the abdominal mass supported the diagnosis.

The intra-abdominal mass was diagnosed as an osseous metaplastic paraprostatic cyst because of its bony structure and the presence of myeloid tissue in the wall of cyst, observed on histopathologic examination.

CONCLUSION

Researchers recommend that clinical and laboratory findings along with ultrasonographic and histopathologic examinations should be evaluated in the diagnosis of prostate diseases. Ultrasonographic examination can be useful in the differential diagnosis of intra-abdominal masses and prostatic hypertrophy.

REFERENCES


