

SURGICAL MANAGEMENT OF FIBROMATOUS OSSIFYING MULTILOBED EPULIS IN A DOBERMAN DOG

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Introduction

Oral cavity is the beginning of digestive tract and has a paramount role in determining the pet's health. Oral cavity in dogs has been reported to be affected by various proliferative lesions ranging from epulides, squamous cell carcinoma, malignant melanoma and fibrosarcoma (Baker *et al.*, 1993). Epulis are variety of neoplastic and non-neoplastic tumors that appear on the gingival mucosa as circumscribed elevated lesions. Chronic gingivitis may lead to nodular proliferation and granulation tissue. Epulis has been described as the most common benign oral tumor of dog. The common origin of these type of tumors is hypothesised to be periodontal ligament. The nature of these lesions should be described histologically. The present case indicated a fibromatous ossifying multilobed epulis in a Doberman dog.

Case History and Clinical findings

A Doberman male dog aged 3yrs. and weighing 15kg kg was presented with a complaint of unusual growth on its left upper gum region since 3months (Fig.1). The animal was continuously showing symptoms of bleeding from the offending mass after taking food and the mass was gradually increasing day by day leading to further aggravation of the condition and gradually reduction in appetite. The animal also used to lick the growth throughout the day leading to discharge of blood tinged fluid from the gum region. Clinical examination of oral cavity revealed a cauliflower like multilobed mass attached to the gum near maxillary third premolar tooth. The case was tentatively diagnosed as Epulis and then surgical excision done under general anaesthesia.



Fig.1 Cauliflower like growth over the left maxillary



Fig.2 Multilobed epulis gum region

Surgical procedure

The animal was premedicated with Cocktail mixture of atropine sulphate @ 0.04

mg/kg body wt., xylazine hydrochloride @ 1 mg/kg body wt. And ketamine hydrochloride @ 10 mg/kg body wt. IM. During surgery the animal was maintained under incremental

doses of ketamine hydrochloride along with 5% dextrose normal saline. The patient was with the help of a mouth gag. The oral cavity was flushed with *chlorhexidine solution diluted with normal saline* to clear off accumulated food particles and bloody discharge from the mass. The stump of mass was ligated close to gum region with the help of silk No. 2 applied just like transfixation followed by careful excision of mass keeping the knot in secure position (Fig. 2). Oozing type of bleeding was observed which was managed by application of adrenaline soaked swab. Post-operatively regular flushing of

restrained in lateral recumbency with affected gum facing upward keeping the mouth open mouth was advised with *chlorhexidine solution diluted with normal saline*. Broad spectrum antibiotic (ceftriaxone @ 20 mg/ kg body weight) for 5 days and analgesic (meloxicam @ 0.2mg/ kg body weight) for 3 days were advised. The patient was advised for liquid diet for 5 days followed by feeding blend diet for another 5 days. The patient recovered uneventfully and regained its normal appetite and mastication within 3 weeks of surgery.



Fig .3.Mass removed after ligature application



Fig.4.Epulis mass sent for histopathology



Fig.5.Continuous observation with Pulse oximeter



Fig.6.After fruitful recovery

Discussion

Majority of epulids can be classified as focal fibrous hyperplasia. Fibromatous and ossifying epulides can be treated with conservative surgical excision, whereas acanthomatous epulides require aggressive

wide surgical excision such as mandibulectomy or maxillectomy (Withrow, 1996).Pyogenic granuloma and peripheral giant cell granuloma may also present clinically as epulis. However, in present case , conservative surgical correction led to

complete recovery thereby giving an indication that it may be fibromatous epulides. Surrounding epulides consists of a pseudocapsule and reactive zone. Recurrence used to sterilize the bed of the tumour from any neoplastic cells (White, 1991). Healing of wounds in oral cavity remains to be a challenging job in veterinary practice and to promote healing minimum mastication or movement of jaws is always advisable. Hence, the dog was kept on liquid diet so as to involve more use of tongue for taking food which gave fruitful outcome in the present clinical situation.

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- was also not reported in the present clinical situation. In of any recurrence of such type of epulides, electrocautery or cryosurgery can be
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