Mammary Gland Neoplasia in Male Dogs

Although mammary gland tumors are among the most commonly diagnosed neoplasms in female dogs, they seem to be rare in male dogs. Medical databases from Louisiana State University, Texas A&M University, and University of Wisconsin—Madison Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospitals from 1994 to 2004 were searched for male dogs diagnosed with primary mammary gland tumors. A single pathologist reviewed biopsy samples from all dogs included to confirm the diagnosis of primary mammary gland tumor and to determine surgical margins, degree of malignancy, and subtype. Eight male dogs, all purebreds, diagnosed with primary mammary gland tumors were identified. All dogs were treated with surgical excision alone and had favorable prognostic factors, including relatively small tumor sizes, benign or well differentiated malignant epithelial tumors, and no metastatic disease at diagnosis. All but 1 of the tumors were an incidental finding, which emphasizes the importance of a thorough examination of the mammary chains in all dogs, regardless of sex. Based on population data from UW and TAMU over a 6.5-year period, annual incidence rate of mammary gland tumors in females was recorded as 207/100,000, whereas annual incidence rate for males was 4/100,000.

COMMENTARY: The lack of malignant behavior in these dogs is noteworthy. In humans, the clinical course of male breast cancer is similar to that in women although the disease is much less frequent. If this were true in dogs we would have expected 50% of the male dogs should have a diagnosis of malignant neoplasia instead of the 13% reported here. I doubt we know the real prevalence of this disease as many neoplasms may be overlooked because of the benign nature, the small size, and most of these cases being detected when the dogs are presented for another problem.—Dudley McCaw, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Internal Medicine and Oncology)


Ventral Luxation After Total Hip Replacement

Total hip replacement (THR) is a common treatment for coxofemoral osteoarthritis in dogs. Many possible complications of THR exist, including luxation in a dorsal or ventral direction, and luxation is generally considered to be an early complication of THR. This retrospective study sought to identify the risk factors and prognosis associated with ventral luxation in canine THR. Medical records of 602 dogs that had undergone THR between 1999 and 2004 were reviewed, and dogs with ventral luxation after THR were compared with dogs that had uncomplicated THR. Of these dogs, 11 (1.8%) had initial revision or explanation for ventral luxation, and ventral luxation represented the fourth most common indication for revision after periprosthetic infection, aseptic loosening, and dorsal luxation. Two additional cases presenting with ventral luxation after the study period were also included. Most of these dogs (76%) were diagnosed with ventral luxation within the first 24 hours to 1 week after THR. Risk factors for ventral luxation included Saint Bernard–type dogs, short neck extension, and high angle of lateral opening in non–Saint Bernard–type breeds. A trend toward higher risk for ventral luxation was also noted when cementless implants were used and with lower femoral displacement ratio in Saint Bernard–type dogs. No single common risk factor for ventral luxation was found. All dogs with ventral luxation were ultimately treated surgically. Most revisions were successful, although 5 dogs (4 Saint Bernard types and 1 Irish setter) had recurrent luxation after initial revision. Thus, Saint Bernard–type dogs with recurrent ventral luxation warrant a guarded prognosis for ultimate outcome.

COMMENTARY: Although dorsolateral luxations after total hip replacement are more commonly reported, this study reminds us that ventral luxations occur as well. Saint Bernard–type dogs, short neck extensions, the use of the BFX cementless total hip system, and an increased angle of lateral opening of the...