

## **Dilated Cardiomyopathy with Pulmonic Regurgitation in a Maltese Dog**

**Seung-Gon Lee, Changbaig Hyun\***

*Section of Small Animal Internal Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon, 200-701 Korea*

**Introduction:** Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a disease of the cardiac muscle which causes the heart to enlarge and not function effectively. The disease usually afflicts larger breeds of dogs. This case report describes DCM in a Maltese dog (< 5kg), which rarely reported in veterinary literature.

**Material and methods:** An 11-month-old female Maltese dog was presented at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Kangwon National University with signs of severe respiratory distress, occasional syncope and exercise intolerance.

**Results:** Physical examination revealed to-and-fro murmur at left heart base with grade V/VI murmur and weak femoral pulsation. Electrocardiogram revealed ventricular bigeminy, occasional ventricular premature complexes and left bundle branch block. Thoracic Radiography revealed a generalized cardiomegaly and pulmonary edema. Echocardiography revealed increased left ventricular dimension, reduced fractional shortening (11%), increased E-point-septal separation (EPSS), severe left atrial dilatation and pulmonic regurgitation. Based on these findings, the dog was diagnosed as a case of dilated cardiomyopathy with pulmonic regurgitation. The dog was medically managed by use of double diuretics (furosemide, spironolactone), inodilator (pimobendan) and vasodilator (nitroglycerine).

**Clinical relevance:** This is a rare case of dilated cardiomyopathy in small breed dog (<5kg). To our knowledge this is the first report in veterinary literature.

\* Corresponding author: hyun5188@kangwon.ac.kr