Cerebellar Infarcts in a Shih-Tzu Dog Diagnosed with Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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Introduction: Brain infarct is depravation of blood flow leading to brain necrosis. This report describes the MRI findings of a shih tzu dog with cerebellar infarcts.

Materials and methods: A 9-year-old female shih-tzu dog was referred because of vestibular signs and mammary gland tumor. Physical and neurologic examination, complete blood counts, serum-chemistry, radiography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis were initiated.

Results: This dog had an acute onset of head tilt, ataxia and neurologic deficits referable to multifocal lesions in the central vestibular region. The patient showed one episodes of temporary vestibular dysfunction. On T1-weighted MR images, hyperintensed lesion was founded. These lesion showed a wedge-shaped, hypersignal intensity on T2-weighted images. The result of CSF analysis was normal.

Clinical relevance: There is no specific treatment for infarcts. If MRI or CT capabilities are accessible, quick diagnosis and the treatment of infarcts focuses on maintaining perfusion. Larger case studies are required to better define ideal treatment protocol of infarcts in veterinary patients in the future.

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