

Assessment of Femoral Arterial Embolism with Multi-slice Spiral CT in a Dog

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Introduction: A 6-year-old intact male, Jin-do dog, weighing 15 kg with the history of paralyzed hind limbs and respiratory distress for 3 weeks was referred to Chonbuk Animal Medical Center, Chonbuk National University.

Materials and methods: Physical examination and laboratory test revealed painful and paralyzed pelvic limbs with normal neurological response, necrosed skin in the distal metatarsal region and heartworm positive. Plain thoracic and abdominal radiographs showed main pulmonary arterial bulging, reverse D sign of cardiac shape, enlarged caudal pulmonary artery and increased radiodensity on caudal lung lobes compatible with heartworm infection, and poor serosal detail with overall homogenous density of abdomen indicating ascites confirmed on ultrasonogram. Computed tomography (CT) was performed and the axial and 3D CT images revealed distinct pulmonary and femoral arterial embolization that interferes with the blood circulation to the hind limbs.

Results: Resolution of arterial embolization by an interventional radiology and heartworm extraction were attempted, the patient, however, died during procedure unfortunately.

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