

Diskospondylitis with Pyometra in a Dog

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Diskospondylitis is an infection of intervertebral discs, associated end plates, and adjacent vertebral bodies causing destruction and proliferation. It tends to occur most often with hematogenous bacterial infection associated with urogenital infection, endocarditis, and dental diseases. The most common organism cultured is *Staphylococcus* spp. Diskospondylitis usually produce systemic signs including fever, anorexia, pain, stiffness, and spinal hyperesthesia. Lameness, paresis or paralysis may occur if the spinal cord is affected.

A 10-year-old, intact female, Rhodesian Ridgeback was referred to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Seoul National University with paraparesis and severe pain at T13-L1 region for one week. A local veterinarian had treated her with PDS for one week but there was no clinical improvement. When the patient referred to this hospital, she was depressed and had vaginal discharge. The body temperature was 40.1°C.

In T-L spine radiographs, osteolytic change was found between caudal endplate of T13 and cranial endplate of L1. The affected vertebral bodies were shortened and intervertebral space was narrowed. In abdominal radiographs, a soft tissue opacity tubular structure was found in mid-caudal abdomen. The abdominal US revealed the dilated uterus included hyperechoic fluid. The CT findings showed concentric lysis of T13-L1 endplates. The case was diagnosed as diskospondylitis at T13-L1 and pyometra. Urine and blood were cultured for definitive diagnosis and the causing organism was the *staphylococcus intermedius*.

Diskospondylitis is usually associated with urogenital infection, endocarditis, and dental disease. But this case was complicated with pyometra. We assumed her pyometra could be the source of the infection of intervertebral discs but we failed to isolate the causing organism. However, this case can be considered meaningful for the first case of diskospondylitis with concurrent pyometra.

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