

Discospondylitis with Prostatitis in a Dog

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Discospondylitis is an infection of the intervertebral disks with concurrent osteomyelitis in the adjacent end plates and vertebral bodies. The urinary tract is often examined as the primary focus. Among the most common are the coagulase-positive *staphylococcus* spp., *streptococcus* spp., *E.coli*, and *Brucella canis*.

A five-year-old, intact male, mixed breed dog was referred to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Chonbuk National University for evaluation of progressive pelvic limb lameness and reluctance to ambulate of 1-week duration. On physical examination, pain was evident when neck and thoracic spinal region were palpated. Pus at the tip of prepuce and perineal hernia were observed. No significant laboratory finding except neutrophilia and hypercalcemia was observed. Radiographically there were irregular bone proliferations of the ventral aspect of T1-2 and T4-7. Severe irregular bone lysis involving T5-6 and adjacent vertebral end plates were evident on CT scanning. The prostate was enlarged and multifocal hypoechoic cysts were observed on ultrasonography. The result of ultrasound guided aspiration of the prostate was interpreted as suppurative inflammation. Urine cultures yielded growth of *Listeria* spp. as well as *E. coli*. Based on the result of examinations, the dog was diagnosed as discospondylitis and prostatic abscess. The prostatic abscess resolved instantly by castration. The dog was treated with orbifloxacin (200mg/kg, p.o. q12h), metronidazole (400mg/kg, p.o. q12h) for about 10 weeks and acupuncture. Clinical signs including pelvic limb lameness and pain have improved practically.

To the authors' knowledge, discospondylitis with prostatitis has not been described. Furthermore, *Listeria* spp. has never been isolated from urine in dogs with discospondylitis.

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