

Intra-Abdominal Lipoma in a Chihuahua Dog

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Lipomas are the most common benign mesenchymal tumors in dogs. Most of the lipomas occur at subcutaneous sites but intrathoracic and intra-abdominal location have rarely been described. Lipomas can remain concealed for a long time within body cavities, and may become very large before they cause clinical signs.

A 12-year-old female Chihuahua, weighing 1.5kg, with the intra-abdominal mass recognized by a private practitioner during regular check-ups was referred to Chonbuk Animal Medical Center, Chonbuk National University for more precise examination about the mass. The dog had been reported to have watery diarrhea temporarily. Physical examination revealed a large, non-painful caudal abdominal mass by transabdominal palpation. Result of hematology and serum biochemical analyses were within normal ranges. Abdominal radiography revealed a large soft tissue dense mass in the caudoventral abdomen, displacing the small intestines cranially and the colon dorsally. Abdominal ultrasonography confirmed the presence of a well demarcated large heterogenous mass(4.38×2.89cm). Cytological analysis of the intra-abdominal mass revealed free lipid and adipose tissue. An intra-abdominal lipoma was diagnosed according to the above results. To the best of the author's knowledge, this is a rare report of intra-abdominal lipoma case in dogs.

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