Episcleritis in Eleven Dogs

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Episcleritis is an inflammatory response affect the episclera and is divided into primary and secondary types. The primary form is subdivided into simple episcleritis and nodular granulomatous episcleritis (NGE). The purpose of this study was performed to determine clinical features of episcleritis and outcomes of therapy in Korea. The medical records of dogs diagnosed with episcleritis at the Veterinary medical teaching hospital of Seoul national university from January 2006 to March 2007 were reviewed. Episcleritis was diagnosed on 15 eyes of 11 dogs. The most frequently affected breed was Shih Tzu (n=6). The mean age ± SD at episcleritis was diagnosed was 6.3 ± 3.4 years with a range from 3 years to 12 years. Eleven eyes were regarded as simple episcleritis and two eyes were assumed to secondary episcleritis result from panophthalmitis. NGE was diagnosed in 2 eyes and was confirmed in one of them on histopathologic examination. Topical corticosteroids were prescribed in all cases and topical cyclosporine A were applied on 7 eyes. Intralesional injection of triamcinolone (4 mg) and gentamycine (4 mg) was performed on 9 eyes and oral prednisolone (0.5 mg/kg) was administered to a dog with secondary episcleritis. Simple episcleritis was resolved in all cases within 14 days following therapy. An eye with NGE was recovered with medical treatment, but the nodule on the other eye did not responded to the medical therapy was removed surgically. Recurrence was observed in 3 dogs with simple episcleritis at 5 to 8 months after the first visit. Topical and intralesional corticosteroids is considered as an appropriate therapy for episcleritis and periodic ocular examination would be needed to episcleritis patient to detect recurrence.

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