Severe Diffuse Chronic Nodular Granulomatous Episcleritis in a Dog

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Signalment: A 5-year-old castrated male Cocker Spaniel with chronic conjunctival hyperemia, fleshy corneal mass, corneal neovascularization, and corneal edema in right eye was referred to Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital of Seoul National University.

Results: On initial ophthalmic examination, the patient was diagnosed as chronic superficial keratoconjunctivitis (pannus). The corneal mass regressed temporarily by initial medications, including both topical and systemic corticosteroids, and topical cyclosporine. Six weeks later, the lesion was enlarged progressively and the dorsal part of the mass was bulged out. And more two weeks later, a new mass grew in lateral limbal region and the corneal transparency was lost completely. The eye was enucleated and requested a histopathologic examination to confirm the diagnosis. On the histopathologic examination, severe diffuse chronic nodular granulomatous episcleritis (NGE) was confirmed.

Clinical relevance: Severe diffuse chronic NGE should be differentiated from chronic proliferative corneal diseases such as pannus, corneal scar and corneal tumors.

Key words: nodular granulomatous episcleritis, pannus, dog.

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