

Diaphragmatic Hernia in Dogs and a Cat: a review of 14 cases

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Purpose: To evaluate clinical outcomes of diaphragmatic hernia in dogs and a cat.

Materials and Methods: Medical records from Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Konkuk University from 2002 to 2007 were reviewed in thirteen dogs and one cat with diaphragmatic hernia. Patients follow-up was completed by only medical record.

Results: The most common breed was Shih Tzu (n=3), followed by Maltese (n=2), cocker spaniel (n=2), mongrel (n=2), King Charles spaniel (n=1), Yorkshire Terrier (n=1), poodle (n=1), and schnauzer (n=1). Mean (\pm SD) age was 5.1 ± 4.0 years (range, 1-14 years). Eight were males and six females. The causes of diaphragmatic hernia were trauma, hit by car (64%, n=9) and congenital anomaly, peritoneopericardial diaphragmatic hernia (36%, n=5). Presenting signs were dyspnea or cyanosis (29%), vomiting or anorexia (14%), and a mixture of both (29%). Duration of clinical signs was less than a week (n=7), between 1 and 4 weeks (n=1), and greater than 4 weeks (n=6). The most easily herniated organ was the liver (n=9), followed by the small intestine (n=8), and the stomach (n=7). Location of rupture on the muscular portion of the diaphragm was in the right side (n=3), left side (n=6), and central side (n=5). Herniorrhaphy was performed in 13 patients using a simple continuous suture pattern. All 13 patients recovered with 10 days. One dog discharged without treatment due to refusal of owner.

Conclusions: This study provides veterinarians with information on diagnosis, surgical treatment, and prognosis of dogs and a cat with diaphragmatic hernia.

Keywords: diaphragmatic hernia, rupture of diaphragm, herniorrhaphy, dog, cat

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