

Surgical Decompression in Dogs with Thoracolumbar Intervertebral Disc Disease: A Retrospective Study of 84 Cases

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Signalment: The medical records of dogs diagnosed with thoracolumbar intervertebral disc disease and treated by decompressive surgery at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Seoul National University between April 2005 and July 2009 were reviewed, and total 84 cases were identified.

Results: The common breeds were the Pekingese (n=23, 27.4 %), Cockerspaniel (n=21, 25 %), Dachshund (n=19, 22.6 %). The average age at admission was 4.7 ± 1.8 years, and the average body weight was 7.1 ± 3.2 kg. One hundred and fifty-one intervertebral disc spaces were affected in the 84 cases. The average number of affected intervertebral disc space per case was 1.7 ± 0.9 spaces, and the most commonly affected intervertebral disc spaces were T12/T13 (n=33, 39.2 %), T13/L1 (n=31, 36.9 %) and L1/L2 (n=28, 33.3 %). The grades of myelopathy were categorized as Grade I (n=3, 3.6 %), Grade II (n=3, 3.6 %), Grade III (n=15, 17.8 %), Grade IV (n=45, 53.6 %) and Grade V (n=18, 21.4 %). Recovery rates and times depending on the preoperative neurological grade of spinal injury and postoperative clinical neurologic signs were compared. Recovery rate of each grades were Grade I (resolved 100%), Grade II (resolved 100%), Grade III (improved 46.7 %, resolved 33.3 %), Grade IV (improved 62.2 %, resolved 26.7 %) and Grade V (improved 66.7 %). The average resolved times of each grades in complete recovery cases were Grade I (16.3 ± 8.6 days), Grade II (24.3 ± 15.3 days), Grade III (29.2 ± 17.9 days), Grade IV (41.9 ± 26.4 days) and Grade V (not completely recovered).

Clinical relevance: Surgical decompression in dogs with thoracolumbar intervertebral disc disease evaluated the average rates and times per each clinical neurologic grade.

Key words: thoracolumbar intervertebral disc disease, IVDD, surgery, spinal cord injury, dog

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