

# Cervical Lymph Node Metastases of Tonsillar Squamous Cell Carcinoma in a Dog

Kitae Park<sup>1</sup>, Jihwan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Junghyang Sur<sup>2</sup>, Dongin Jung<sup>1</sup>, Seongchan Yeon<sup>1</sup>,  
Hyojong Lee<sup>1</sup> and Heechun Lee<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Collage of Veterinary medicine, Gyeongsang National University, Jinju, Gyeongnam, Korea*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University*

**Signalment:** A 8-years-old female Shih-tzu was evaluated for ataxia for 1 month. This patient was medicated with PDS in local animal hospital.

**Results:** Physical examination revealed kyphosis, mild pelvic limb ataxia and mass lesion of left cervical region. According to the lab results, leukocytosis was indicated. Radiography showed an abnormal proliferative bony lesion predominantly in L4 and soft tissue opacity mass was also indicated in left cervical region. To supplement our diagnosis about the cervical mass, sagittal B-mode and transverse color Doppler ultrasound images was also performed. A smooth, well-circumscribed, circular mass with mixed echogenicity and vascular flow was noted at the lateral aspect of the left common carotid artery. Base on the unenhanced and enhanced CT scan, the cervical mass, which we believed to be originated from left medial retropharyngeal lymph node, was enlarged. In addition, circular tonsillar lesion, which was not revealed through ultrasonography and radiography, was also identified. Histopathological analysis of left medial retropharyngeal lymph node was performed and result was squamous cell carcinoma.

**Clinical relevance:** Tonsillar squamous cell carcinoma is a commonly aggressive disease among dogs of older ages. In patients with tonsillar squamous cell carcinoma, cervical lymph node metastasis is an important prognostic factor. Ultrasonography and CT may be useful method in tonsillar mass diagnosis and assessment of lymph node involvement

**Key words:** tonsillar squamous cell carcinoma, lymph node, metastases, CT, ultrasonography

\*Corresponding author: lhc@gnu.ac.kr