

Congenital Bronchogenic Cyst in a Calf

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Signalment: A 30-day-old female calf was presented with an 11 cm-size cervical mass, present since birth. Despite the progressive swelling of the mass over a period of 30 days, the calf had a good appetite and appeared healthy. There was no other relevant medical or surgical history.

Results: Upon examination, an approximately 7 × 11 × 4 cm soft and non-tender mass with peduncle was protruding from the anteriomedial neck. On admission, the calf's rectal temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and results of hematological examination and blood chemistry were all within reference ranges. Radiographs of the cervical regions revealed soft tissue opacity at the ventral aspect of the neck. Thoracic radiographs revealed no abnormal findings in the mediastinum and lung parenchyma. An ultrasound scan of the cervical mass demonstrated a mixed echogenic cystic mass. A surgical excision of the mass was performed under general anesthesia. Microscopically, the cyst wall was lined by ciliated pseudostratified columnar epithelium, cartilage and smooth muscle fascicles. Based on the results of histopathological examination, the cervical mass was diagnosed as a bronchogenic cyst.

Clinical relevance: Extrathoracic bronchogenic cysts are uncommon congenital malformations. Although cervical bronchogenic cysts are rare lesions of the neck which are very difficult to diagnose preoperatively, they should nevertheless be considered in the potential diagnoses of cervical cystic lesions. To the authors' knowledge, this may be the first report of an extrathoracic bronchogenic cyst in animals.

Key words: calf, congenital malformation, bronchogenic cysts, histopathological analysis.

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