Vaginal Fold Prolapse in Bitch: Case report

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Introduction

Vaginal prolapse is usually occurred in young bitches (less than 2 to 3 years of age). Predisposing factors of the prolapsed include high estrogen flux during follicular phrase, constipation, dystocia and parturition (3,4). Vaginal fold prolapse is classified into 3 types by degrees of severity. Type I prolapse shows slight to moderate eversion of vaginal mucosa cranial to the urethral opening; Type II prolapse demonstrates protrusion of the vaginal mucosa through the vulva labia; and Type III prolapse is recognized by complete protrusion of the entire circumference of the vaginal mucosa, often accompanied by exteriorization of the urethral orifice (5). By mean of this, suitable treatments of the disease such as hormonal or surgical therapies thus depend on the prolapses’ severities.

Case report

A Twelve-year-old, mixed breed, intact bitch weighing 8.9 kg presented at the hospital with anorexia, depression with long-shaped mass with smooth surface through the vulva lips (Fig.1). The dog showed no sign of strain or dysuria. It had been previously diagnosed with uterine hyperplasia nine months before, and the most recent estrus cycle was the last three months. Upon the last three weeks, the dog had the hemorrhagic vaginal discharge with an obvious mass developed on the fourth week.

The vaginal fold prolapsed was confirmed by physical examination and vaginal cytology. The vaginal cytology revealed approximately 80% of keratinized cells with slightly superficial cells (Fig.2). The vaginal cytology indicated that the bitch was exhibiting prolonged proestrus for three weeks. Hematology showed the increasing of ALT and ALP. Additionally, the dog was also positive with Ehrlichia canis using SNAP 4DX test.

Ovariohysterectomy with amputation of protruded vaginal tissue was performed (Fig.3). The dog was further treated with tramadol hydrochloride (Vesnon-V-100®) (dose 4 mg/kg, sid, SC), carprofen (Rimadyl®) (dose 4 mg/kg, sid, SC) and Cephazolin (Cefaben®) (dose 25 mg/kg, sid, IM) on the surgical day. Thereafter, the dog was treated with Cephalexin (Cemelax®) (dose 25 mg/kg, bid, PO, ac) for one week and carprofen (Rimadyl®) (dose 4 mg/kg, sid, PO, pc) for four days. The surgical wounds healed completely without any complications. There was no recurrence of the prolapsed after following up to 12 months.

Discussion

Vaginal prolapse is usually seen in young bitches during their first three estrous cycles with some may during parturition or short after (1,2). The present case was diagnosed with type II vaginal prolapsed based on the presence of protruded vaginal mucosa through the vulva labia without involvement of the entire circumference of the mucosa. As the clinical signs and the history of shorten interestrous interval, we suspected an ovarian cyst or tumor resulting in
prolonged estrogen influence that induced the disease. According to the reason, surgical excision with ovariohysterectomy was completely curative in this case.

Figure 3 The vulva after the removal of the prolapsed tissue.

References