CRYPTORCHIDISM IN A GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG – A CASE REPORT

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A ten year old, male, German shepherd dog was presented with a history of abdominal pain, dysuria and anorexia since seven days. On clinical examination, it was dull and weak. On palpation, a hard mass was palpable at the caudal aspect of abdomen and there was absence of right testis in the scrotum. Ultrasonographical examination revealed testicular tissue just caudal to the right kidney. Laparotomy was performed and successfully retrieved intraabdominal testis without any complications.

Key words: Cryptorchid, Right testicle, Laparotomy and German shepherd

Cryptorchidism is a congenital anomaly of descent of testicle that affects the reproductive system with highest incidence in swine and equines followed by canines (Mattos et al., 2000). The undescent testicle may found in the abdominal cavity, inguinal canal and subcutaneous tissue. Toy or small breeds of dogs like Yorkshire terrier, Poodle, Chihuahua, German Spitz, etc. are most affected with Boxer and the Beagles at relatively lower risk (Cox, 1986). Cryptorchidism in canines may either happen in normal or pseudohermaphrodites males and may be unilateral or bilateral with testicular neoplasia (Sertoli cells) (Mattos et al., 2000).

Case history and Observations

A ten year old, male, German shepherd dog was presented with a history of abdominal pain, dysuria and anorexia since seven days. On clinical examination, it was dull and weak. Rectal temperature was 102.4⁰F with heart rate of 70 beats/min. On abdominal palpation, a hard mass was palpable at the caudal aspect of abdomen. Abdominal radiography revealed intra-abdominal mass just caudo-ventral to kidneys along with prostate enlargement, whereas, no abnormalities were detected in the bladder. On ultrasonographical examination, large mass involving testicular tissue was noticed Fig. 1. Absence of right testicle with normally descended left testicle in the scrotum was noticed. The case was diagnosed as unilateral cryptorchidism with testicular tumour. Surgical excision of the retained intra-abdominal testis was planned. Haematobiochemical parameters were within the normal range except increased serum BUN and creatinine levels.

![Fig.1: Right testicle in Ultrasonography](image-url)
Surgical Procedure and Discussion

The dog was premedicated with Diazepam @ 0.2 mg/kg B.W intravenously. After five minutes Propofol @ 4 mg/kg B.W intravenously was administered to achieve general anaesthesia. The anaesthesia was maintained with 2% Isoflurane. Pre-operatively, Ceftriaxone @ 25 mg/kg B.W intravenously and Tramadol @ 2mg/kg B.W intravenously were administered. Exploratory laparotomy site from umbilicus to pararepucial area was scrubbed with surgical spirit and painted with povidone iodine.

Surgical incision was given on linea alba at the umbilicus and extended caudally over the pararepucial area to avoid penis and peritoneum was incised. Intestines were separated and retained right testicle with tumour was found just caudoventral to the right kidney Fig. 2. There were no testicular adhesions to the abdominal wall or to the surrounding organs or the tissues. Spermatic cord along with blood vessels was ligated using PGA-1 suture material and resected. Laparotomy incision was closed using PGA-1 by continuous lock stitch pattern and skin was closed by cruciate pattern using silk subsequently, the orchiectomy of left testicle was performed by prescrotal method as per standard operating procedure. Post operatively Tab. Cefixime @ 20 mg/kg B.W for 7 days and Tab. Serratopeptidase 10 mg twice daily for 5 days were given orally. Cutaneous wound dressing was done using povidone iodine on alternative days. Skin sutures were removed after 10 days. The dog recovered uneventfully without any complications.

Ninu et al. (2013) suggested ultrasonography is the best diagnostic modality for cryptorchid testis as it is very difficult to palpate the intra-abdominal/intrainguinal testis. Cryptorchidism is a heritable trait and as many of the cases of ectopic testis showed a tendency towards neoplastic transformations, it is better to perform orchiectomy as also reported by Romagnoli, (1991) and Yates et al., (2003). In the present case, ectopic testis was not neoplastic, but chances of neoplastic transformation could be more as the animal becomes older hence orchiectomy of other testis was also performed Fig. 3.

References


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