

CLINICAL AND MAGNETIC RESONANCE ASPECT IN MIELOMALACIA IN DOGS – 6 CASES

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Mielomalacia in dogs is a condition characterized by the softening or degeneration of the spinal cord tissue. Both clinical and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) aspects are crucial for diagnosing and understanding myelomalacia in dogs.

The medical records of a series of 6 cases from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest Emergency Hospital were included based on the history, clinical and magnetic resonance aspect.

The clinical presentation of the cases varies depending on the location and severity of spinal cord damage. Common clinical symptoms include weakness or paralysis in one or more limbs, loss of coordination, difficulty walking, pain, changes in posture, altered reflexes, such as exaggerated or diminished reflex responses and in severe cases, loss of bowel or bladder control.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a key diagnostic tool for assessing myelomalacia in dogs. MRI provides detailed images of the spinal cord and surrounding structures, offering valuable insights into the condition. On MRI scans, myelomalacia presents as a localized area of softening/tissue damage within the spinal cord. These areas often appear as regions of hyperintensity on T2 images, indicating a lesion of spinal cord tissue.

Based on the history, clinical and magnetic resonance aspect 6 cases of dog myelomalacia are divided into: traumatic (3), degenerative (2) and vascular (1) myelomalacia with location of thoracolumbar spinal cord.

Prognosis for dogs with myelomalacia varies widely depending on the cause and the degree of spinal cord damage. In some cases, with prompt and appropriate treatment, dogs can regain some or all of their mobility. However, in severe cases or when the underlying cause is difficult to treat, the prognosis may be less favorable.

In conclusion, the combination of clinical evaluation and MRI imaging is critical for diagnosing myelomalacia in dogs accurately and guiding appropriate treatment decisions. MRI, with its ability to provide detailed anatomical information, plays a central role in understanding the extent and location of spinal cord damage.

Keywords: dog, imaging diagnosis, myelomalacia, MRI.