



ULTRASONOGRAPHIC DIAGNOSIS OF ORTHOTOPIC URETEROCELE IN A GERMAN SPITZ FEMALE DOG: CASE REPORT

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RESUMO

Congenital anomalies are among the leading causes of urinary incontinence in young dogs. However, on the structures that compose the urinary system, congenital alterations in the ureter tend to be uncommon. Within these abnormalities, ureteroceles are defined as cystic dilatations of the distal terminal portion of the ureter that may project into the bladder lumen and cause incontinence or ureteral obstruction processes. The ureterocele classification is correlated to the cystic position, orthotopic or ectopic. The aim of this report is to describe a ureterocele case in a puppy. A 5-months-old 1.4 kg sexually intact female German Spitz was referred for consultation regarding a 2-month history of urinary incontinence. The dog was otherwise healthy with normal energy levels. An abdominal ultrasonography exam was performed, revealing a thin-walled cystic structure within the urinary bladder at the vesicoureteral junction level. This cystic structure appeared to communicate with the left ureter with 4mm, which was uniformly dilated. Mild left pelvic dilatation was also evident, with a renal pelvic diameter of 3mm. A presumptive diagnosis was made of left-sided congenital orthotopic ureterocele with secondary left-sided hydroureter and pyelectasis. Unlike this case report sometimes the patient can be asymptomatic or present as this dog urinary incontinence. One crucial differential diagnosis is the simple ectopic ureter. The ultrasonographic exam helps in this differentiation. The ultrasonographic exam helps to establish a better approach to therapeutic methods and outcomes. As described in the literature and the present report, ureterocele is viewed on the ultrasonographic exam as a cystic structure filled with anechogenic content and surrounded by the bladder associated with anechogenic content (intraluminal urine), which facilitates the sonographic identification; this ultrasonographic finding on the medical reports is referred to as a "cyst inside a cyst," in other words, an intravesical cystic structure. The classification of the ureterocele corresponds to what is described in humans. In children, if cystic dilatation is located in the bladder, as in the present report, it is called intravesical or orthotopic. When it is located in the urethra, it is called ectopic. Therefore, ureteroceles ectopic infections are associated with concomitant ureteral ectopia. Usually within the ureterocele, a hydroureter, renal pyelectasis, or hydronephrosis result from the partial obstructive process. The obstructive changes can be ipsilateral to the ureter with malformation or bilateral, depending on the degree of cystic dilatation, promoting irreversible kidney damage in some cases. In summary, ultrasonography

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is an essential tool for puppies that have urinary incontinence symptoms. It can be useful for the diagnosis of ureterocele, as thin-walled, anechoic, fluid-filled structures within the trigone region of the urinary bladder (i.e. cyst within a cyst).

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: urinary incontinence, ureter, urinary system, congenital diseases, ultrasonography.