Cytological evaluation of canine lymphadenopathies - a review of 109 cases

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ABSTRACT

Lymphadenopathy is a commonly encountered condition in canine patients. It is not a specific disease entity but an important clinical finding; the cause should be ascertained to attempt treatment and prognosis. Aspiration cytology is now gaining popularity as a valuable aid in diagnosing lymphadenopathies because of its simplicity, rapidity, early availability of results with minimal trauma and complication to the patients. Therefore the following study was conducted to evaluate the different cytomorphological patterns associated with various canine lymphadenopathies and the usefulness of fine needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) in diagnosing these conditions. A total of 109 FNAB samples were collected from cases of clinical lymphadenopathies in dogs. The FNAB provided an adequate quantity and quality of samples for cytomorphological analysis. Air dried FNAB smears yielded satisfactory results with Romanowsky’s stains, while wet fixed smears stained satisfactorily with Harris Haematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) and Papanicolaou (‘Pap’) stains. The cytological diagnosis made from 109 cases were, 52 reactive hyperplasia, 25 neutrophilic lymphadenitis, 15 eosinophilic lymphadenitis, 12 metastatic lymphadenopathies, 4 lymphomas and 1 plasmacytoma. From the results of this study it can be concluded that the FNAB technique and Romanowsky’s stains were found to be the easy and rapid methods for lymph node sampling and staining respectively.

Key words: lymphadenopathy, fine needle aspiration cytology, cytology, reactive hyperplasia, lymphadenitis, lymphoma