

RARE CASE OF CONGENITAL STENOSIS OF PREPUTIAL ORIFICE IN A PUP AND ITS SURGICAL CORRECTION

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Congenital preputial stenosis is relatively uncommon in dogs (Sarierler and Kara, 1998). Preputial stenosis leads to small or absence of preputial opening leading to phimosis. Congenital phimosis is usually accompanied by a distended prepuce and inability to urinate normally. Urine may often be passed only in drops or as a thin stream (Johnston and Archibald , 1984). There may be preputial retention of urine resulting in balanoposthitis and ulceration of the affected area (Proeschold, 1977). Surgical enlargement of the preputial orifice and correction of the primary condition successfully alleviate the problem.

Case history and observation

A male Labrador pup aged 28 days and weighing 1.5 kg was presented to the Small Animal Out Patient Unit of Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital, with the history of inability to void urine from the past three days and swelling behind the umbilicus. Clinical examination revealed an otherwise healthy puppy, with no signs of general disease. The prepuce was larger than normal, swollen and distended. A normal preputial orifice and the usual tuft of hair were not observed (Fig 1). The preputial orifice was extremely stenotic. Palpation revealed a fluid-filled-like preputial sac and a tenced fluctuating cylinder extending the length of the prepuce. The scrotum and testes were normal. On the first day the preputial orifice was dilated using a mosquito forceps and 4cm long tube of the scalp vein set was retained in the orifice to keep it patent. Subsequently, surgical reconstruction of a normal prepuccial orifice was resorted to.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Anaesthesia and surgical procedure

Cefotaxime syrup was administered pre-operatively per os at a dose rate of 20 mg/kg for a perioperative antibiotic umbrella. The animal was premedicated with 1 mg of xylazine intramuscularly, followed ten minutes later by 15 mg ketamine intramuscularly.

Prepuce was lavaged with diluted povidone iodine solution. The puppy was placed in dorsal recumbency and an incision was made at the tip of the prepuce. Sufficient tissue was removed after ensuring that the penis remains covered by prepuce. Then, at the site of the first incision, a triangular shaped opening was made. The skin was sutured to the underlying mucous membrane with No. 5-0 PGA, using a simple continuous suture pattern (Fig 2). Animal had an uneventful recovery.

Results and discussion

Congenital preputial stenosis is reported in German Shepherd dog, Labradors, Golden Retrievers and mixed breeds. This is in accordance with the present case. Prognosis of congenital preputial stenosis is good. Phimosis makes erection impossible or painful, reducing libido. It should be corrected surgically (Christiansen, 1984). The goal of surgery is to enlarge the preputial orifice and allow unrestraint movement of the penis in and out of the prepuce. Neutering is recommended for the dog having small preputial opening. Acquired preputial stenosis may be due to laceration and scarring, sucking of a puppy's prepuce by littermates or licking by the bitch. If larger than normal preputial orifice is created, it leads to postoperative fibrosis and paraphimosis may result in future (Boothe, 1994). Preputial stenosis leads to preputial irritation and infection secondary to urine pooling within the prepuce. Urinary outflow obstruction, distress and early death have been reported in young puppies (Johnston, 1989). If not corrected promptly, urinary retention, postrenal uraemia and death of the patient may occur.

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