



Short Note

Surgical retrieval of a needle from the pharynx of a dog

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Received: 11 June 2016; Accepted: 30 June 2016

Ingestion of foreign bodies due to indiscriminate eating habit is one of the common problems in animals and specially canines (Easom, 1983, Kumar *et al.* 2015, Prasad *et al.* 2010). The present study report is the evidence where sewing needle pierced and occupied at pharyngeal area and was retrieved successfully from a dog.

An eight-month-old intact female non-descript dog weighing 7 kg was presented with the complaint of inability of swallowing along with unproductive coughing from 24 hours. The animal was restless, dull and depressed on presentation. Clinical examination revealed rectal temperature, heart rate, pulse rate and respiratory rate to be slightly elevated than normal. There was visible swelling and tenderness at the throat region. After palpation of the lower neck region, the animal showed severe pain and gagging/ retching reflex. The lateral radiograph showed the presence of a radio-opaque sharp metallic foreign body in the pharyngeal area (Fig.1). Emergency surgery was performed because a linear foreign

body was entrapped which had greater chances to severely damage and possible perforate the surrounding area.

Standard aseptic preparation of surgical site was done. A mid ventral incision of about 2 cm was made at the inter-mandibular region where the foreign body was felt on palpation and genioglossus muscle was exposed. The retrieved foreign body which was sewing needle, 2 inches (Fig. 2), with a thread of 19.5 inches. The suturing of muscle and skin was done in routine manner and antiseptic dressing was done with 5% povidone iodine solution. Postoperatively, non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug meloxicam 0.2mg/kg intramuscularly OD, amoxicillin - 150 mg intramuscularly BID for 3 days and daily antiseptic dressing was advised till the complete healing of the wound.

Oropharyngeal penetrating trauma (OPT) is an injury of the oropharynx, palate, and adjacent cervical structures caused by foreign material. Sticks are the most common material associated with OPT in dogs, likely because of playful



Figure 1. Radiograph of cervical area of dog (Lateral Projection)



Figure 2. Two inches long sewing needle with 19.5 inches attached thread

behaviour (support with relevant reference). Other most common foreign bodies found in the oesophagi of dogs and cats are bones, although rawhide chew toys, balls, string, and an assortment of other objects had been reported (Fossum, 2013). Foreign bodies lodge in the oesophagus because they

are too large to pass or they have sharp edges that become embedded in the oesophageal mucosa. Foreign bodies are most commonly found at the thoracic inlet, the base of the heart, or in the epiphrenic (diaphragm) area because extra oesophageal structures limit oesophageal dilatation at these sites.

References

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