

Fibromatous Epulis in a horse

Sandeep Kumar, Prem Singh, Sandip Saharan, K.K. Jakhar and R.K. Chandolia

C.O.V.S., LUVAS, Hisar -125004, Haryana

Tumors of the buccal cavity are a challenging problem in domestic animals. The incidence of oral tumour is more common in bovine (Singh, 1991) but it is rare in horses. The present report describes a oral tumour affecting gum of cranial mandible just caudal to the incisor of the horse.

A 12 years old horse was reported with a presence of growth toward cranial part of the mandible for the last two months. The horse was feeling difficulty during intake of feed and water. Sometime there was oozing of blood also during intake of feed. Owner did not report any type of injury in the mouth cavity responsible for initiation of the tumour. Growth appeared as small lump toward caudal part of the incisors which kept on increasing in size till it started creating problem during food intake. Simultaneously horse started loosing the body condition.

The radiography of the growth affected mandible revealed multiple radio-opaque nodules forming a mass close to the incisors not involving mandible or incisors (Fig. 1). Ultrasonographic image of the growth showed cluster of multiple lobules with hyper-echoic multiple septa indicating some sort of malignant growth. There was anechoic lumen of the most lobules but in upper lobules there were echogenic granules in the lumen (Fig. 2). On ultrasonography the distinct boundary of the bone of the mandible show no involvement of bone.

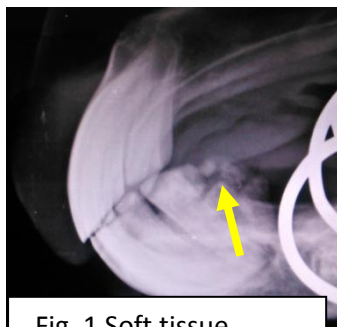


Fig. 1 Soft tissue

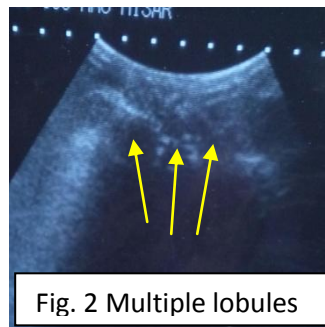


Fig. 2 Multiple lobules

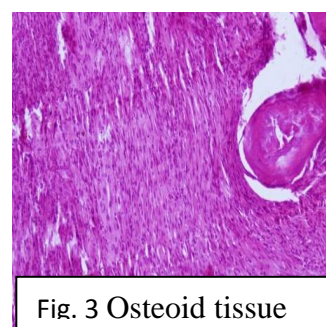


Fig. 3 Osteoid tissue

Biopsy of the growth tissue was collected and sent for histopathological examination. Histopathologically there was proliferation of fibroblast to form whorl like structure. At some field there were foci of calcification also. On the basis of histopathology, the growth was diagnosed to be fibromatous epulis (Fig. 3).

It was decided to adopt chemotherapy to treat the growth keeping in view its close location with the incisors and small size. Injections of Anthiomaline 15 ml deep I.M. on alternate days six times and Vincristine sulphate @ 0.025 mg/kg body weight (5 ml dissolved in 10 ml distilled water) by I.V. route on weekly basis four times along with

supportive therapy of Vitamin-C and Vitamin B-Complex by I.M. route (10 ml each for 5 days was administered. Growth started reducing 20 days after treatment. The horse showed improvement in health status. The re-occurrence of growth was noticed 40 days after treatment.

Common neoplasms of epithelial odontogenic layer include odontoma, ameloblastoma and epulis. These types of tumours have been reported in cattle, buffalo and camel (Singh, 1991). Presence of fibromatous epulis in oral cavity of horses is uncommon however Snook and Wakamatsu (2011) described sarcoma of neural tissue origin in oral cavity of an aged mare. There are multiple etiological factors for the origin of neoplasm. Radiography and ultrasonography was observed to be useful not only to diagnose but also to rule out the involvement of incisors and bone of the mandibles. Histopathological findings corroborate with the findings of ultrasonography. Treatment of oral tumour is always remained a challenging problem for the clinician and it is always difficult to decide about the line of treatment. In this case chemotherapy looks to be better option as compared to surgical intervention. The case started responding well to the chemotherapy, however, there was reoccurrence of the neoplasm.

References

- Singh, Prem., Singh, K., Sharma, D.K., Behl, S.M. and Chandna, I.S. 1991. A survey of tumours in domestic animals. *Indian Vet. J.* 68(8): 721-725.
- Singh, Prem., Singh, K. and Chandna, I.S. 1991. Epithelial odontogenic neoplasm in cattle, buffalo and camel- clinical case reports. *Indian J. Vet. Surg.* 12 (2): 111-114.
- Snook, E. R. and Wakamatsu, N. 2011. Diagnostic exercise: oral tumour in an aged mare. *Vet. Pathol.* 48 (3): 785-787.