Case 240455
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Presentation and Signalment

- 6 year old, male neutered, mixed breed dog
- Splenic mass diagnosed as hemangiosarcoma
- Spleen was removed and dog completed metronomic chemotherapy

- The following blood smear was obtained 2 years post splenectomy during a recheck examination
Laboratory Findings

• Thrombocytopenia
  • $38 \times 10^3$ platelets/µL (RI = 300 – 800 $\times 10^3$ platelets/µL)

• Rare erythrocytes contain small (< 1 µm), round, basophilic, epicellular organisms, present individually or in chains
Diagnosis: *Mycoplasma haemocanis*

- PCR confirms this diagnosis

- Our patient did not show typical signs associated with *Mycoplasma*:
  - Anemia
  - Lethargy
  - Pale mucous membranes

- Clinical signs usually take a while to develop (Hct < 20%)
Clinical signs are the result of RBC destruction

- Bystander injury
  or
- *Mycoplasma* binding may expose hidden antigens
Mycoplasma risk factors in dogs

• **Transmission/Exposure**
  - Blood sucking arthropods
    - Brown dog tick transmission has been demonstrated experimentally
  - Contaminated blood
    - Iatrogenic (Blood transfusion)

• **Splenectomy**
  - Dogs generally do not develop clinical disease unless they are asplenic.

• **Concurrent infections**
  - Hemotropic organisms (*Ehrlichia, Babesia*, etc...)

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Questions?