Case 61

An Enlarging Pectoral Mass in a Thoroughbred Horse

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Signalment and History

- 9-year-old, Thoroughbred, gelding
- Firm mass extending from the right pectoral region to the right thoracic wall
  - Kicked in this region by another horse several months prior to presentation
  - Size of mass waxes and wanes
  - Painful on palpation
  - Starting to cause abduction of the scapula and gait alteration
Image courtesy of Fred Caldwell, DVM, MS, DACVS
Diagnostics Performed

- Ultrasound of the mass – mixed echogenicity
  - rDVM submitted samples for culture:
    - *Acinetobacter baumannii*
    - Alpha hemolytic *Streptococcus*
    - *Raoultella planticola*

- Incisional biopsy submitted to outside lab:
  - Possible soft tissue sarcoma

- *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* titer was negative @1:8
Trichrome

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Morphologic Diagnosis

Musculoaponeurotic fibromatosis (desmoid tumor), diffuse, marked, chronic
Musculoaponeurotic Fibromatosis

- <10 reported cases in horses

- First reported in a horse in 1983 (Ihrke et al., JAVMA, 183:10;1100-1102)
  - Prior to that, reported as a rare non-metastasizing fibrous neoplasm in people

- Occurs in mid-cervical and pectoral regions

- Intralesional fluid-filled cavities associated with sterile inflammation have been described
Musculoaponeurotic Fibromatosis in People

- Criteria for diagnosis:
  - Hypocellular, unencapsulated, infiltrative mass
  - Composed of bands of mature fibrous tissue
  - Deep location and relationship to a musculoaponeurotic system
  - Diffuse growth with entrapment and atrophy of myofibers

- Trauma has been proposed as an initiating factor
Musculoaponeurotic Fibromatosis In Horses

- Unknown etiology
  - Possible insect bite
  - Lanced abscess/seroma
  - No history of trauma in 2 cases
  - No mention of trauma in the remaining cases

- Differential:
  - Equine fibrotic myopathy
    - Most commonly affects the semimembranosus/semitendinosus muscles

- Prognosis
  - Depends on progression at the time of diagnosis
References


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