SCLEROSING PERITONEAL MESOTHELIOMA IN A BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG

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Brúnó, 10 years old, male, Bernese mountain dog. He was presented at a veterinary clinic with enlarged abdomen due to severe ascites. There was no evidence of cardiological abnormality. During the abdominal ultrasound examination abdominal effusion sample was taken, and sent to cytology examination. Abdominal neoplasia was suspected. Brúnó was sent to our referral clinic for treatment options. The average condition of the dog was good. The abdominal ultrasound (US) revealed a huge amount of free fluid; the bowels were found in a big conglomerate; the liver lobes seemed normal, with slightly increased echogenicity; spleen, kidneys, prostate, urine bladder were normal. Exploratory laparotomy and the drainage of the fluid content was performed. Liver was rounded out the omentum and the intestines were in coherent conglomerates, the capsule of these conglomerates contained fibrotic and adipose tissue. Several samples were taken from these lesions for cytology and histopathology. The encapsulating fibrotic tissue was opened and the intestines were evolved. During median laparotomy incision we couldn’t find lesions the deepest zone which could have initiated the problem. Brúnó felt markedly better after the operation, but inappetence and vomiting occurred a few days later following surgery. MRI examination was ordered with the hope of finding a lesion deeper in the abdominal cavity but this examination failed to provide novelty compared the US. Then, we decided to perform a laparoscopy to scan the whole abdominal cavity again for every possible reason, with minimum harm to the dog. The bowels were freed from the capsule. This time the abdomen was filled up with sero-sanginous fluid, which contained floating particles. The peritoneum was permeated with a fibrous-like tissue forming ligament-like growths with, small vessels infiltrating it. The intestines were wrapped inside in this tissue and it formed several pouches around them. From the surface of this altered peritoneum small vessel clews emerged everywhere. Similar phenomenon was seen on the dorsal abdominal wall and on the surface of the gall bladder. The organs were partially covered with a firm, fibrous, pale pink coloured tissue, which was separable from the serosal membranes. After a few days of search, based on these findings, a diagnosis was made: sclerosing peritoneal mesothelioma. This is a very rare disease, which was reported only a few times in the literature and just in Bernese mountain dogs. The origin of the disease is likely autoimmune, but the exact cause has not been cleared yet. It responds to immunosuppressive agents temporarily, but the prognosis is very poor. After the start of the treatment of Brúnó’s, his condition improved for some weeks, but finally Brúnó was euthanased by the owner’s request. From our first examination until euthanasia 60 days had been spent.