RESUMO SIMPLES - OUTRAS ÁREAS TEMÁTICAS

CANINE TONSILLAR CARCINOMA: CASE REPORT

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Tonsillar neoplasms are poorly described in the literature and represent 8 to 25% of all oropharyngeal tumors in dogs, with squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) being the most frequently reported, followed by lymphoma and melanoma. They exhibit aggressive behavior, a high metastatic potential, a guarded prognosis, and their growth may lead to clinical signs such as dysphagia, coughing, salivation, and dyspnea. Unilateral cases with dissemination to satellite lymph nodes may occur in up to 97% of cases, and distant metastases have been described, mainly to the thyroid gland and lungs. Due to the limited number of reports in the literature, the aim of this study is to describe a case of canine tonsillar carcinoma treated at the Veterinary Hospital of the Federal Rural

University of Rio de Janeiro. A nine-year-old, mixed-breed female dog was examined with a complaint of pain and swelling on the left side of the cervical region. During evaluation, cytology was collected from a mass located in the left submandibular lymph node region, suggesting nodal metastasis of a poorly differentiated malignant neoplasm (considering carcinoma or melanoma). A skull computed tomography scan was requested to determine the location of the lesion, which revealed enlargement of the left palatine tonsil, mild contralateral enlargement, and lymphadenomegaly of the submandibular and retropharyngeal lymph nodes, suggestive of metastasis. Additionally, oncologic staging was performed using thoracic radiographs and abdominal ultrasonography, with no significant abnormalities. After excision of the lesion and lymphadenectomy of the left and right submandibular lymph nodes, the material was submitted for histopathological analysis, which confirmed carcinoma of the left tonsil, consistent with SCC, with metastasis to regional lymph nodes and hyperplasia of the right tonsil. Systemic chemotherapy was initiated with carboplatin at 250 mg/m² for six sessions every 21 days, along with supportive therapy in case of adverse effects. Unfortunately, before completing the treatment sessions, the patient developed recurrence and worsening respiratory signs, and euthanasia was performed. Tonsillar carcinoma has a high metastatic rate compared to other tumors due to regional lymphatic spread. Inspection of the oral cavity and palpation of the cervical region are important for clinical suspicion; however, computed tomography was crucial for accurately determining tonsillar and lymphatic involvement, assisting in staging and therapeutic planning. Cytology is used as a screening method, while histopathology and immunohistochemistry are essential for definitive diagnosis. Treatment is multimodal, involving surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy, alone or in combination. Despite the tumor's low chemosensitivity, systemic antitumor therapy combined with surgery was chosen, as the cost of radiotherapy represented a financial limitation and therefore was not implemented. Canine tonsillar carcinoma is an aggressive neoplasm with high metastatic potential and should be included as a differential diagnosis in animals presenting with cervical swelling. As described in the literature, low chemosensitivity prevented long-term disease control, and perhaps combining surgery with radiotherapy could have yielded more promising results. Considering the complexity of local anatomical structures, accurate diagnosis using advanced imaging is a distinguishing factor, as it reveals the disease in its early stages, providing a greater chance of therapeutic success and improved quality of life for dogs with tonsillar carcinoma.

Palavras-chave: dog; neoplasia; tonsil.